

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

The Italian job
Woodrow Wyatt on the lesson for Britain from Italy's black marketeers
All at sea
The loneliness of the long-distance yachtswomen
Hot spots
The Times Guide to tempting temperatures world-wide
Cold warrior
Snow suits, cocoons and other clothes to beat the freeze

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr A. Bagg, who lives in London. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, Information Service, back page.

Prince and Princess at Times gala

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NUM chiefs vote to expel defiant Notts area

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Working miners in the Nottinghamshire coalfield are to be expelled from the National Union of Mineworkers unless they accept the authority of the union's national executive. It voted yesterday by 17 votes to four to recommend to a special delegate conference on January 29 that at 30,000-strong traditionally-moderate coalfield should be thrown out for changing its rules to become an independent "union with a union".

The decision brings to a head an internal conflict within the union over the 44-week-old strike about pit closures, just as the union is suing for fresh peace talks with the National Coal Board. Miners' leaders agreed yesterday to field their full 24-man executive in any future negotiations with the board, and

Rail stoppage

The 24-hour rail stoppage planned for next Thursday is to go ahead. Aslef, the train drivers' union, and the National Union of Railwaymen, confirmed yesterday. The London to Edinburgh route and the service from London through Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield, as well as commuter services round these towns, could be halted, but no commuter services in the capital are expected to be affected. Southern Region should not be hit.

Chief's salary up 70% as profits soar

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Big pay rises at Telecom

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of British Telecom, has had his salary increased more than 70 per cent to £160,000 a year since the corporation was privatised two months ago, it was disclosed yesterday. Other board members have also had big salary rises. The minimum executive director's salary is now £70,000. Before the share sale in November the chairman was the only director to earn more than that amount. The pay rises were disclosed as British Telecom announced a pre-tax profit for the first half of the present financial year of £684 million, £22 million more than in the same period last year.

Commons completes the Tebbit convalescence

By Julian Havilland

Mr Norman Tebbit returned to his Cabinet and later resumed his seat in the Commons yesterday from which the IRA removed him three months ago. His cheek a little hollow, his frame a bit sparer, he occupied but fifteen inches of the crowded government front bench to Mr Nigel Lawson's thirty - he was the man we knew.

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While both sides were anxious to emerge with an agreement to open substantive arms talks, the problem of future negotiations on America's five-year, \$26 billion (£23 billion) research programme into anti-missile weapons based in space - properly called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) - continues to sour the atmosphere behind the scenes.

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US officials concede that the most difficult issue in the 14 hours of talks between Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, was the question of negotiations about the military aspects of space.

The SDI programme has been put forward for negotiation in the forthcoming US-Soviet talks, but the Administration has offered no prospect of agreeing to curtail its current research stage. President Reagan also made it clear in so many words at his press conference on Wednesday night that the United States was unwilling to consider negotiating any agreement on limiting the possible future testing and deployment of space-based weapons that may be developed as a result of the research programme.

Administration officials' decisions about the test, and deployment of futuristic space weapons should be left to a future President, since there is little likelihood that any will be ready for deployment before the end of the century. The Soviet position appears to be that while Star Wars is to be on the negotiating table, Washington seems to be saying in effect that it is not negotiable.

Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko agreed in general terms to negotiate on "preventing an arms race in space" without specifically mentioning the SDI. Washington expects the negotiations - which will also cover strategic nuclear arms and medium-range missiles - to begin around March. The United States has privately proposed Geneva as the venue.

The fact that Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko did not define the areas to be covered in the talks on space-based arms suggests there was disagreement on how the SDI should be negotiated. Mr Shultz, emphasizing that it was a personal view, told reporters on the flight home from Geneva that space negotiations would address "space arms, whether based or targeted on earth or in space".

To the American side that definition includes Soviet development of so-called "anti-ballistic missiles".

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Five dead after blast rips flats



Firemen struggling to rescue victims of the gas blast at the block of flats in Putney Hill, south London, yesterday. (Photograph: John Manning)

- At least five people died and seven were injured, one seriously, when a gas explosion ripped the centre out of a three-storey block of flats at Putney, south-west London, yesterday. Page 2
- One woman, Miss Eva Krefci, was rescued after being buried under rubble for six hours. A surgeon crawled through a tunnel made by rescuers so he could administer aid. Back page
- The Health and Safety Executive launched an inquiry into the cause of the blast, which was heard three miles away. It was believed to have been caused by a mains gas leak. Page 2
- Residents in flats nearby were thrown from their beds, bricks and shredded timber were flung hundreds of yards down Putney Hill and scores of windows were shattered by the explosion. Page 2



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Leading article, page 13

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Putney gas explosion

Five killed as three-storey block of flats collapses after blast

By Staff Reporters

At least five people died and seven others were taken to hospital after a gas explosion demolished the core of a three-storey block of flats in south London yesterday.

Last night, firemen were digging, with the aid of floodlights, through tons of rubble for another resident.

The noise of the early morning explosion at Newnham House, Manor Fields, off Putney Hill, could be heard more than three miles away.

Occupants of flats near by were thrown from their beds, bricks and shredded timber were flung hundreds of yards down the hill and scores of windows in surrounding buildings were shattered in the blast, which one senior fire officer compared to that of a 50lb bomb.

The three floors of the elegant 1930s building collapsed into a pile of debris 10 feet high from which firemen gradually drew the dead and injured, who were taken to St Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, where an emergency plan, devised in the wake of the bombing of the Grand Hotel at Brighton, was in operation.

Six and a half hours after the explosion firemen and surgeons pulled from the tangle of wood and masonry a young woman who had been protected beneath tons of rubble by the cast iron bath she had been standing beside at 7.17am when the gas ignited. It ignited after what is believed to have been a large and rapid leak from the mains supply.

The leak was discovered by Mr Gerrit Gelissen, warden of the Manor Fields Estate, who arrived for work about 6am. "I went to deliver a parcel shortly before 7am to the Kreyjers sisters who are residents in the block. One of the sisters opened the door and asked me if I smelled gas. It was obvious and very strong."

"I went back to the office, but before I had the chance to ring the gas board I heard the bang. "I ran out. It was still dark, just chaos with debris everywhere and people standing around crying." There were two telephone warnings of the smell of gas, but the explosion happened before gas officials arrived.

The explosion was witnessed by Ian Connors, aged 15, who was delivering newspapers in the street. He was knocked from his bicycle. "There was a blue flash and an explosion. It

seemed like the trees were disintegrating." He left hospital after treatment for minor injuries.

People sleeping in flats near by were jolted awake.

"I heard a massive explosion. I was thrown out of bed and my bookcase fell on top of me," said Miss Sally Plumb, aged 14, who lives in Haydon Gardens.

"I thought a bomb had gone off. I rushed outside and saw that the block next door had simply

and a toppled lift shaft swayed precariously above them, but they could not risk knocking it down until they were sure that all those who might be alive had been extricated.

An added difficulty in the early hours of the rescue was that the mains gas supply could not be cut to the area. Communications by short-wave radio were banned in case the sets sparked off a further ignition.

Mr Alan Sharpe, a spokesman for the South Eastern Gas Board, said that the gas mains were probably as old as the 1930s building but that they had been checked for safety during the last two years when the flats switched from communal oil-fired heating to individual gas central heating.

Mr David Mellor, Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office and Conservative MP for Putney, who lives near by, arrived at the flats early in the day. "Having seen the Brighton bomb at the Grand Hotel I can say that this looks even worse," he said.

An investigation will be held by the Health and Safety Executive, said its chairman, Mr John Collen, after inspecting the site.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, has ordered an urgent preliminary report from the Health and Safety Executive into the explosion (Robert Evans writes).

Mr King went out of his way, however, during exchanges with MPs to stress the good safety record of the gas industry. When asked by Mr John Prescott, Labour's chief employment spokesman, if the HSE would examine the extent of gas explosions during the past five years, he said it was worth remembering there were now 16 million gas consumers in Britain, but 1984 saw only 25 serious explosions.

"Those figures show a steady decline over the last three years and bare some indication of generally the very high standards of safety operated within the gas industry," Mr King added.

But he declined to comment on claims, voiced by Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal MP for Bermondsey, that there had been a failure in recent weeks at Putney to deal quickly and properly with complaints made about the gas service.

Bodies detected by heat camera

Smoke-filled rooms are no obstacles to firemen using thermal image cameras. The equipment used by Putney Fire Brigade at yesterday's fire - there are 12 in use in the London area - can detect sources of heat and is ideal for detecting bodies when a fireman's vision is impaired.

The equipment uses advanced infra-red technology. Infra-red light is emitted from heat sources and the frequencies of the wavelengths vary according to the objects' temperature.

A heat picture can be built up from these frequencies; a body would emit heat different from that of its surroundings. The same technology has been used for night photography and in satellites to detect the earth's heat patterns.

collapsed. I saw a man with his baby standing by a window. There was no way I could get in to try to help. Everything between was just rubble."

Mr and Mrs Michael Ashcroft were injured when, after hearing the explosion, they gathered up their daughter aged three and rushed through their front door. The blast had demolished the landing and they fell to the rubble beneath.

They were not seriously injured, although Mr Ashcroft was being kept in hospital overnight with concussion.

When firemen arrived the rubble had settled and no bodies, living or dead, were visible. They used a heat detecting camera with a thermal image intensifier to locate those trapped below.

Because of the site's delicacy they could not use mechanical equipment and dug with shovels and bare hands.

While they did so the second floor landing, parts of the roof

Blast was similar to 50lb bomb

By Charles Kneivitt

Architecture Correspondent

The force of the gas explosion at Newnham House, equivalent to a 50lb bomb according to the fire chief at the scene, is thought to have caused the front and back walls of the three-storey mansion block to blow out and the floors to collapse inwards, leaving a pile of rubble 10ft high.

The block, contained 12 flats, was designed in 1932 by the London architects Colebridge, Jennings and Soames, which no longer exists as a practice. The contractor was John Laing.

Construction was in load-bearing masonry, with the floors carried by the front and back walls. The floors were made from reinforced concrete incorporating hollow terra-cotta pots, a common method of construction at the time.

A district surveyor from the Greater London Council, who spent yesterday at the site, said that the building appeared to have been very soundly designed and built.

The blast is believed to have occurred at either the ground floor or possibly at semi-basement level. It was still unclear last night whether there is a void beneath the building which may have allowed to build up of gas to take place.

It was thought that gas had escaped from a fractured mains supply and had been sparked by the use of an appliance.

Regulations on the use of gas in residential blocks were tightened after the Ruman Point gas explosion in 1968. However, the new regulations did not apply to Newnham House.

The blast demolished six flats. Neighbouring residents reported that they had complained in the past about gas flooding basements and cellars after the installation of individual gas central heating in the flats.

Cold weather a clue to likely gas leak

By David Cross

The Health and Safety Executive, the Government's safety watchdog, yesterday began a full-scale investigation into the gas explosion which was almost certainly responsible for the destruction of part of the block of flats in Putney.

A spokesman for South-eastern Gas said that Mr Michael Ashcroft, who lives at 12 Newnham House had reported a gas leak at 7.02am. But by the time a service engineer had arrived at 7.25am, the explosion had already occurred.

The spokesman said that Segas was investigating claims by residents in the Putney Hill area that gas board officials had visited the block on several occasions in recent weeks to investigate problems with various gas appliances.

According to figures provided by the British Gas Corporation, yesterday's explosion was the worst in terms of lives lost since October 1983 when six people died and 13 were injured in an explosion which demolished part of a tourist hotel on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

Dr Philip King, of the University of Manchester Insti-

Hospital emergency plan copes well with disaster

By Robin Young

Administrators at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, south-west London, were delighted yesterday with how smoothly their accident emergency procedure coped with the effect of the Putney gas explosion.

Mrs Frances Russell, the director of nursing services, said that the hospital was lucky in that the gas explosion occurred during an overlap period while two shifts of staff were in the hospital living locally came into the hospital as soon as they

Serious gas explosions, 1975-84

Year	Incidents causing damage	Incidents causing deaths	Number deaths
1975-76	27	8	10
1976-77	27	8	10
1977-78	44	3	3
1978-79	36	13	13
1979-80	31	7	7
1980-81	33	11	11
1981-82	44	13	15
1982-83	33	9	10
1983-84	25	13	20
1984 (Apr-Dec)	17	7	7

Source: British Gas Corporation

tute of Science and Technology, who conducted an investigation into a series of gas explosions in 1977, speculated yesterday that the Putney explosion could have been caused by a fracture in a gas pipe near the bottom of the block of flats.

Dr King's report, investigating explosions in Beckenham, Bradford, Brentford and Bristol said that fractures occurred mostly in winter, when the ground surface was sealed by snow or frost, and gas escaping from a broken main cannot escape upwards and seeks a sideways path.

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heard of the explosion, and one member of the St John Ambulance Brigade arrived from the estate where the explosion occurred, already wearing his uniform.

One ward of 20 beds was cleared by summoning doctors who could discharge patients ready to go home. The emergency operating theatres were cleared.

All the hospital staff are provided with personal action cards which tell them what they have to do in an emergency.



Chemical weapons rejected in August

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Armed Forces pressure for the creation of a British stockpile of nerve gas was rejected by a Cabinet committee last August, senior government sources disclosed last night.

A partial leak of information on the meeting, in this week's *New Statesman*, provoked considerable consternation and anger in Whitehall because of its mixture of hard fact and "mythological misrepresentation".

The *New Statesman* said that "the committee has not yet taken any formal decisions," but that "Mrs Thatcher is on the point of forcing through a decision that Britain should restart production of nerve gases".

It was authoritatively stated last night that ministers had discussed the issue of chemical warfare on August 2, but they had decided that there should be no change of policy for the foreseeable future.

One member of the committee said that the matter was

"dead". Another said that it was closed.

The committee, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, included Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, and Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, with Lord Whitelaw, Leader of the Lords, and Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher told one of her own backbenchers, who had expressed concern, Mr Cyril Townsend, MP for Bexleyheath: "Britain abandoned its chemical warfare capability in the late 1950s. There has been no change in government policy since then, nor is any change now proposed."

She then added the key qualification: "But as a responsible Government we have a duty to keep defence policy under review in the light of the massive Soviet capability in chemical weapons."

Parliament, page 4

Nerve gas 100 times as lethal as Bhopal

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The killing power of the nerve gases which might be used in chemical warfare is as much as 100 times as lethal as the toxic cloud that claimed more than 2,000 lives in Bhopal, India, by accident last month.

The chemical armaments available to the superpowers now are at least 30 times more certain to kill than phosgene, used first by the Germans in 1916, which in turn was six times more deadly than chlorine, introduced by Germany in trench warfare in 1915.

Nerve gases are stored as liquids which can be exploded from missiles as clouds of vapour or sprays of liquid droplets. They enter the body by inhalation or by absorption through the skin.

Death occurs within a few minutes from asphyxia, or a few hours if the victim has some protection or the dose is only marginally lethal.

Today's chemical weapons

and such pesticides as were manufactured in Bhopal are both close relatives of organic phosphorus compounds, first developed in Germany in the mid-1930s during research on insecticides. But they are much more deadly.

Since the Second War the chemical weapons manufactured and stored in the United States and, it is assumed, in the Soviet Union, are known as tabun, sarin, soman and VX.

Sarin and VX are the two standard American nerve gases, while soman is believed to be the Soviet equivalent. Tabun is an older relative of sarin.

A former British Army expert on the subject said yesterday: "The point where they were lethal enough for military purposes was reached 20 or 30 years ago. The efforts since then have gone into improving the packaging and delivery systems which transport them to the enemy."

Journalists' pay strike threatened

More than 8,000 provincial journalists are being urged to join a campaign of pay strikes, culminating in an all out stoppage in protest at a 5 per cent pay rise offer.

The National Union of Journalists' provincial newspapers industrial council has convened a 200-member delegate conference next Monday which will be called on to approve a 24-hour strike on January 30, a three-day strike starting on February 4 and an indefinite strike from February 11.

Hopes rose last night that fundamental industrial problems at the *Financial Times* might be at the centre of talks due to reconvene today at the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Management at *The News*, Portsmouth's evening newspaper, yesterday threatened to dismiss next week 73 members of the National Union of Journalists who have opposed plans to transfer three NGA members to sub-editors duties.

Fears of grain market collapse as stocks mount

Fears of a collapse in the grain market, bringing pressure on the European Economic Community to reduce intervention guarantees and to introduce production quotas, have been fuelled by a remorseless build-up in unsold stocks.

There are now more than two million tonnes of feed wheat in intervention storage in Britain, compared with less than 3,000 tonnes last year.

According to the latest figures issued by the Home Grown Cereals Authority, total unsold stocks of wheat and barley held on farms at the end of October amounted to more than 11 million tonnes, nearly 30 per cent more than at the same time in 1983.

Spot prices for wheat and barley are fluctuating considerably and yesterday rose to £114 and £116 a tonne respectively. Futures market prices for delivery next September are less than £100.

5,750 jobs lost in three days

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Thousands of job losses, the bulk of them in the bread industry, were announced yesterday, bringing the three-day total to almost 6,000.

After Michelin's decision on Tuesday to make 2,400 redundant at its Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, tyre plant, Rank Hovis McDougall announced that 1,800 jobs would go with the closure this year of more bakeries around the country.

In other announcements the Littlewoods organization said that about 1,000 full-time jobs would disappear, and some of its 108 chain stores were threatened with closure, the Ministry of Defence said that 300 civilians would be made redundant at records and pay offices in York; and the British

Steel Corporation announced the closure of a plate mill at Hartlepool with 250 jobs lost. BHM said that its British Bakeries subsidiary would close plants at Scarborough, Gosport in June, and later it would disclose closure plans at Stockton, Worthing, Eastbourne, Newnham Abbot, and West Drayton.

The planned redundancies at the Michelin factories were accepted yesterday by the 29 shop stewards representing production workers, to protect the remaining 2,000 production jobs. The announcement was made by Mr Gordon Howie, works convenor.

Meanwhile, the National Economic Development Council, revitalized by the ending of

the trade union boycott, has embarked on an ambitious, six-month programme to secure a drastic reduction in unemployment. The jobs programme was drawn up by Mr John Cassels, director general of the National Economic Development Office.

The agreement to investigate where new jobs will come from after the recession is seen as the most significant move by union, employers and government leaders to reach positive conclusions about future economic policy.

In spite of union opposition to the Government's economic strategy, Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, made clear at this week's meeting of Neddy that the movement insisted on being heard.

New move to seize NUM assets

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Sequestrators appointed to seize the £8 million assets of the National Union of Mineworkers will appear in the High Court today to take fresh steps towards securing more than £2 million held in a Dublin bank.

Mr Michael Arnold, the Receiver appointed to take charge of the union's funds, is also expected to announce shortly that he has been successful in securing more than £4 million of the union's assets held in a Luxembourg finance house.

Talks have been progressing between Mr Arnold, a senior

insolvency partner in the firm of Arthur Young McClelland, Moores, and lawyers for the bank, and yesterday he sought an audience before a judge in chambers. The Receiver and the sequestrators, appointed after the union failed to pay a £200,000 contempt of court fine, have been working closely together in their attempt to trace and seize the NUM's funds.

Shortly before Christmas, the union won back partial control of the £2.7 million assets moved to a Dublin bank so that it

could continue the legal battle to regain control of its funds.

Today the sequestrators, appointed by the High Court from the City firm of Price Waterhouse, will be reporting their progress. They may also seek an injunction to stop NUM officials from touching the money in Dublin, and requiring them to direct the bank to recognize the Receiver and comply with his instructions.

Nationally, another 183 miners abandoned the strike and returned to work yesterday, bringing the total for the week to 2,216, the NCB said.

Yard names new deputy to Newman

Mr Peter Imbert, Chief Constable of Thames Valley, is to become the new deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and a possible successor to Sir Kenneth Newman as the next head of London's 27,000 officers.

Mr Imbert's appointment was announced yesterday and he starts in March. He succeeds Mr Albert Laugherie who is retiring early because of ill health.

Mr Imbert, aged 51, began his career with the Metropolitan Police, rising through the ranks of the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Squad in the 1970s to become one of the two police negotiators during the Balcombe Street siege in 1975.

NHS manager resigns over contract dispute

Mr Kenneth Punt, one of the new regional general managers appointed under the Griffiths reorganization of the National Health Service, has resigned and gone back to his old job.

Mr Punt, who started as general manager of the Yorkshire Regional Health Authority 10 weeks ago, has gone back to his post of treasurer with the Trent region after failing to agree a contract. Trent had agreed to hold the post open until a contract for the Yorkshire post was settled.

Mr Punt said yesterday the difficulty was not over money or the length of the contract. The problem was over other conditions of service.

Rabbi loses appeal against dismissal

By Tony Smeaton

Rabbi Clifford Cohen yesterday lost his claim for unfair dismissal against a north London synagogue. An industrial tribunal found allegations that he had neglected his pastoral duties justified.

Mrs Sheila Hollis, chairman of the tribunal, said Rabbi Cohen himself had admitted being a rabbi as being a profession, rather than a vocation, and "it may be that approach which has led him to this tribunal".

The Southgate Progressive Synagogue had been responsible in dismissing him when he refused to give his new telephone number to the synagogue's council because he did not want to be disturbed during his pastoral duties.

The tribunal had been impressed by the devotion and dedication of two other rabbis who had appeared as witnesses for Rabbi Cohen. In their accounts of their pastoral duties, the tribunal was "completely unable to comprehend why two other rabbis should be able to do it, and the other not."

Another of the rabbi's witnesses had described his friend as "somewhat naïve".

The tribunal concluded that many other allegations made against Rabbi Cohen during the four-day hearing, from making digs at members of the congregation during a sermon to failing to visit the sick, were also justified.

There was, in short, "no hidden reason" for the dismissal, Rabbi Cohen, aged 36, had clearly been lacking "in his capacity as a spiritual leader".

NF student peace plan agreed

By Patricia Clough

Hopes of an end to the disruption at the North London Polytechnic over the National Front organizer, Mr Patrick Harrington, increased yesterday as his students accepted a compromise.

Under the agreement between Dr John Beshon, the acting director, and student leaders, the third year philosophy lectures that Mr Harrington is enrolled to attend will be moved to a small building at 53, Benvell Road, away from the main polytechnic premises.

More than 1,300 students voted overwhelmingly to accept the deal. But Mr Peter Redman, a student spokesman, said that if Mr Harrington entered other buildings it would be clear that he was not a serious philosophy student, but a National Front activist, and the union would have to reconsider its decision.

Mr Harrington earlier yesterday had been banned from attending the meeting by a High Court judge at the request of the Polytechnic.

CRE to sue tenants over petition

The Commission for Racial Equality is to sue 40 Greater London Council tenants for signing a petition protesting against the possible arrival of Asians in their street.

The tenants, all white, live on the Exmouth Estate, Stepney. They signed the petition last July because they were worried that if the council went ahead with plans to move an Asian family into a house on the estate violence would erupt.

The case, believed to be the first of its kind, will be heard at Westminster County Court, London, after Easter.

The commission obtained a copy of the petition and after confirming 40 signatures decided to bring a civil action under the Race Relations Act.



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Health service 'cannot afford cancer screening'

By Nicholas Timmins

The National Health Service cannot afford screening for breast or cervical cancer or spina bifida babies, a group of doctors said yesterday.

Although each test is relatively cheap and effective, many patients have to be covered to detect each case, so that the actual cost of preventing a death or avoiding long-term disability is too high to be affordable, they say in *The Lancet*.

Such services can only be supplied at the expense of other treatments, they say, and should not be provided. The doctors, led by Professor Colin Roberts, Professor of Epidemiology at the Welsh National School of Medicine, come to their conclusion by treating the health service as an insurance-based system.

Private health insurance

companies provide a benefit premium ratio of about 200 to 1, they say, and argue that on a similar ratio, the health service could afford only £14,000 for each death avoided or long-term disability prevented.

But they say that on that basis its costs £80,000 to detect a case of breast cancer, because the chances of a case being discovered by screening are 1 in

500, and £300,000 to avoid a cervical cancer death. A voiding one death by routine chest X-rays before operations cost £900,000, while detecting a spina bifida baby by screening costs £19,000.

Detecting such cases are major benefits that can be achieved, they say in *The Lancet*, "but they exceed by a large margin what we estimate the NHS can afford".

The most controversial newcomer since the Mini pioneered a new breed

Sinclair electric pedal car on the road for £399

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

Sir Clive Sinclair launched his electrically powered "beetle" car yesterday, describing it as "a cultural shock for the motorist". It is on sale for £399 at electricity board showrooms and by mail order, to be followed within days at chain stores.

Production capacity for 200,000 vehicles a year will be available at Hoover's Merthyr Tydfil factory by June.

Sir Clive said that he had planned a more conventional electric car, but decided to take advantage of legislation introduced in 1983 for electrically assisted cycles.

The CS can be driven by 14-year-olds without a driving licence, insurance or helmet; it is not subject to road tax, does not need the Department of Transport approval and parking regulations do not apply.

The Automobile Association said last night: "We have reservations on two counts: the desirability of allowing the vehicle on the road without insurance coverage and because it seems to have moved from the concept of a motor-assisted bicycle to a road vehicle."

"It could, due to its size and inconspicuousness, present a hazard to its occupant and other road users."

There are more sophisticated Sinclair vehicles to come. The next is expected to appear in about two years. It will also be powered by a conventional lead acid battery.

The third vehicle, at the planning stage, will use a new electricity source under development by a European battery maker.

Driving impressions

The CS is arguably the most controversial newcomer to Britain's roads since Sir Alec Issigonis's Mini pioneered a new breed of small car. Like the first Mini, the Sinclair is being labelled a toy.

Controversial it may be, but it is not. This is a well engineered novel approach to basic transport, with severe limitations.

I drove this week on closed roads at the Transport Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berkshire. The semi-reclining driving position is quite comfortable, with the feet resting on two strong cycle pedals.

The steering layout is a bit of a shock. In place of a conventional steering wheel is a handlebar which lies under the driver's thighs, with the grips protruding at trouser level and coming nicely to hand. It takes only a few minutes to master and is surprisingly direct and controllable.

The "accelerator" is an on/off button on the handlebar operated by the left thumb. Sinclair people talk about a 20-mile range.

My CS's battery was on its last legs after less than two miles of flat-out motoring.

In fairness, I should add that included repeated full lock circling to ascertain its cornering limits. It is very stable. The engineers said this manoeuvre imposed a tremendous overload on the battery.

Leading article, page 13



Economy size: CS designer Mr Tony Wood Rogers (left) looking up at a lorry. Waterproof clothing is sold as an extra (right) (Photographs: Harry Kerr and Barry Beattie).

Man from the manor hit at neighbour for 'no manners' rebuke

A neighbours' dispute

between a former RAF wing commander returning from an evening at the local Conservative association and an accountant who, after a meal was in a "jovial" mood fondly imagining that he might have been a Test cricketer, ended in violence, a court in Dorset heard yesterday.

The evening culminated in a car window being broken by a cricket bat and both men being arrested.

John Rees, aged 44, an accountant and investment adviser, was conditionally discharged for two years at Sturminster Newton Magistrates' Court, after it was said that he had aimed a punch at Wing-Commander Paul Evans, knocking a cigar out of his mouth, and then smashed the window of his car with the bat.

The incident occurred after Mr Evans, aged 67, and his wife had returned from a Conservative meeting in Shaftesbury to their home, the Garden House, at Thornhill.

Mr Evans, who was awarded the DFC for shooting down seven German aircraft, told the court he had told Rees: "The reason you are not accepted round here is not a question of money, it is a question of manners". But he said he had not driven over Rees's foot as his neighbour had claimed.

Rees, who lives in the adjoining Thornhill Manor, denied a charge of destroying a car window without a lawful excuse. The bat, signed by members of the 1948 Australian cricket team, including Don Bradman, was produced in court.

The magistrates heard there was a history of disputes between the two men over rights of way and access. Mr Evans, who said he had twice taken out injunctions against Rees, told the court that on November 16, after he and his wife returned home, his wife's fur coat caught on the car horn, as she got out, sounding it briefly.

After seeing his wife indoors, he returned to the car, intending to reverse it into their garage, when he saw Rees approaching and swinging a cricket bat. Mr Evans said he got in his car and locked the doors, but Rees punched at him through the open window, missing his face but knocking a cigar out of his mouth.

Rees, who said he shared the week between his Dorset manor house and Albany in Piccadilly, London, said when he heard the car horn sound and saw the car lights flash at his window he thought his neighbour was "trying to wind me up".

He was in a jovial frame of mind after having a good meal and had been looking at the presentation cricket bat which was given to his father for him by the cricketer Bill Brown.

He had gone out and told Mr Evans to "buzz off" and he had replied: "The reason you are not accepted here is because you have not got any breeding". Unable to think of a reply he flicked the cigar out of Mr Evans's mouth.

£14.5m treasures lost

Britain lost £14.5 million in arts treasures to foreign institutions in the last six months of 1984, and stands to lose even more this year as a result of a government ceiling on works of art taken in lieu of tax.

The figures were given in a written reply to Mr Andrew Faulds, Labour MP for Warley East. It showed that export

licences were suspended for 22 items in the period to enable British collectors and institutions to bid to keep them in the country.

But only three works were retained, the most expensive being a Rembrandt drawing bought by the British Museum for £668,160.

Computer course fight won by boy

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Ben Stanforth, a privately educated schoolboy, won the right to attend a part-time, council-run computer course at a local technical college.

Mr Justice Harman granted injunctions lasting until a final hearing on Wednesday restraining Nottinghamshire County Council from "approving, (adopting) or implementing" a policy decision preventing children from attending junior courses at Newark Technical College.

Ben, aged 11, of South Muskham, who attends a £339-a-term preparatory school at Newark, has already been offered a place on the course and the injunctions allow him to attend the first of the 22 lectures tomorrow.

Body released

The body of Aristos Constantinou, the fashion clothing millionaire shot dead in north London on New Year's Day, was released by the Haringey coroner yesterday. The funeral will be held at Wood Green Greek Orthodox Church on January 18.

Embassy battle

Saudi Arabia's plans to use Crewe House, the former home of Lord Crewe, in Curzon Street, Westminster, as an embassy, are being opposed by the Mayfair Residents' Association because of possible terrorist attacks.

DPP decision

The Director of Public Prosecutions is not to authorize charges against two men over an alleged £10 million ransom demand and plot to kidnap Mrs. Linda McCartney, wife of the former Beatle Paul McCartney.

Bhopal twinning

Slough, Berkshire, is to be twinned with Bhopal, the Indian town where 2,500 people died last month after a poisonous gas leak from a chemical plant.

Kidnap charge

A boy aged 15, accused of kidnapping a woman aged 23 near Bath, Avon, was committed for Crown Court trial yesterday by Bath Juvenile Court.

Sex assaults in London 'commonplace'

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

Rape and sexual assault are commonplace in London, where more than one in three women claim to have suffered them, according to the results of the first full survey on rape, published yesterday.

The survey of about 1,200 women, conducted by Women Against Rape, shows that rape and sexual assault occur far more often than is disclosed by police statistics.

Including "rape" by husbands, two women in every five questioned, a total of more than one third, had experienced rape, attempted rape or some kind of sexual assault at least once.

The survey, contained in a book, *Ask Any Woman* (Falling Wall Press: £5.50), and carried out over two years with funding from the Greater London Council, shows that more than one in six of those questioned had been raped, a total of 214 women.

17-plus certificate for less academic

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A new certificate for 17-year-olds who want to stay on at school or go to college to do a course geared to their future working life is published today.

The Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education (CPVE), will begin this autumn in hundreds of sixth forms and further education colleges throughout the country. It is aimed at 100,000 to 150,000 students a year.

All those who complete the course will receive the qualification, which will contain a student profile including performance in external tests. At present less academic students often have nothing to show employers on leaving school.

Work experience will be compulsory but the emphasis is on flexibility and tailoring the course to fit the individual student.

All students will have to cover the "core", consisting of 10 areas in which they must become competent, including communication, social skills, numeracy, science and technology, information technology, practical skills and problem solving.

Each young person will also follow vocational studies and will choose one of five areas in which to specialize - business and administrative services, technical services, production, distribution or services to people.

Schools and colleges are also being asked to offer additional studies to give 17-year-olds the chance to pursue community activities or recreation and to allow for particular educational needs.

The new qualification, known popularly as the "17-plus", carries no compulsory examination.

At the easiest end students will be assessed by their own teachers, others will be able to perform multi-skill assignments, marked externally, and at the most difficult level, students will do language and number tests.

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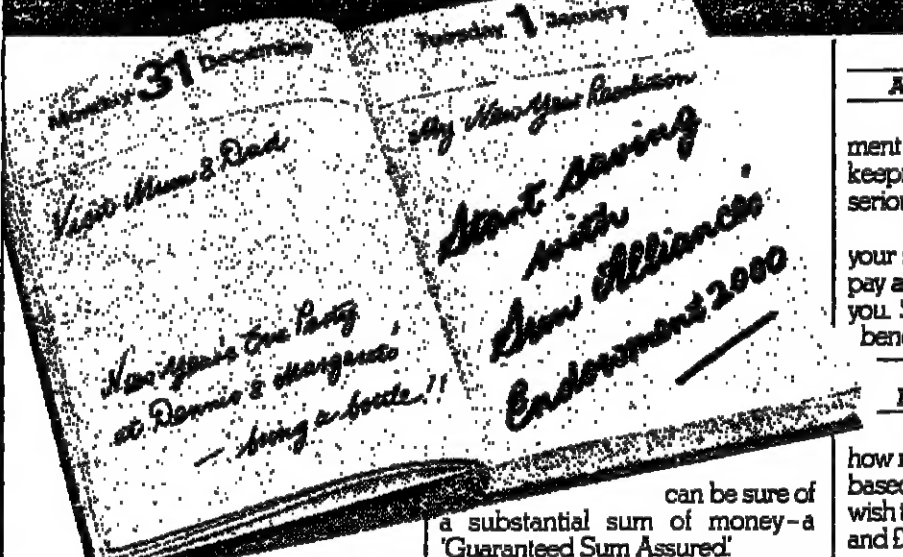
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-1985- New Year's Resolution



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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 10 1985

Spending for jobs

Chemical warfare

Record investment: PM prefers other ways of creating more jobs

THE ECONOMY

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, persistently refused in the Commons to countenance extra spending on infrastructure projects as a means of reducing unemployment. She pointed out that in 1984 fixed investment across the economy as a whole was running at an all-time record.

Extra spending on infrastructure did not create anything like the same number of new jobs as spending on special measures, she said. The £2 billion spent on special measures included a great deal on training and that helped equip the young for some of the science-based industries of the future. That was the right way to increase employment possibilities of the future.

Reductions in taxation were one way of increasing take-home pay without increasing the costs of industry and therefore keeping its competitiveness.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, urged her to accept the evidence that by far the best way of reducing unemployment and creating jobs was public investment in repairs and construction.

Mr Robert Farry (Liverpool, Riverside, Lab) opened the questions by calling on Mrs Thatcher to study the recent report by Dr Alex Scott-Samuel which suggested that hundreds were dying from mass unemployment - 150 on Merseyside.

What steps does she or her Cabinet intend (the asked) to reduce unemployment and these horrifying figures? If she showed half the commitment to cutting unemployment as to trying to destroy the National Union of Mineworkers, the picture would be different.

Mrs Thatcher: If we had fewer strikes, people might have more confidence in goods produced in Britain, and they would place more orders. The long-term way to reduce unemployment is to produce goods and services which people here and abroad will buy. That is the aim of this Government's policies.

Mr Hattersley: Has she read the report submitted yesterday to the National Economic Development Council describing the chronic deterioration in the infrastructure of the country? Will the Government provide the money to remedy the increasing decay of schools, hospitals, public sector homes and roads, and concentrate available funds on what every objective authority agrees is the best way of reducing unemployment, public sector capital investment?

Mrs Thatcher: He belonged to a Government which actually cut and slashed capital expenditure in many departments, particularly on roads, housing and hospitals.

This Government has put in a lot of extra expenditure on hospitals and roads. In the last 12 months in major roads will be 27 per cent greater in real terms than in 1978-79. We are putting greater invest-

ment into the water industry this year. The purpose of putting in public investment is that you get a good return, so that investment is necessary. This Government has a good public investment record, and investment as a whole, fixed investment across the whole economy, was running at an all-time record in 1984.

Mr Hattersley: The Prime Minister ducks the unemployment question. It is central to my point. Does she or does she not accept evidence now supplied even by the Department of Industry that by far the best way to reduce unemployment and to create real jobs is public investment in repairs and construction?

If she denies that, or refuses to comment, we will know what we have always suspected, that once more Tory Farry chooses high unemployment because it has other priorities more consistent with Conservative philosophy.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not agree with him or what he says about what the people say. Public sector investment remains at about the same level now as it was during the last year of the Labour Government.

We do have a record amount of fixed investment across the economy. I would not accept his view that extra spending on infrastructure is the best way of increasing employment. We spend £2 billion on special employment measures. That secures far more jobs than what Mr Hattersley proposes.

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats: While welcoming back Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and saluting his courage, can we expect that the CBI's request for £1,000 million capital investment in our crumbling infrastructure will be given a rather better hearing than in recent months?

Will Mrs Thatcher deal with the Institute of Fiscal Studies estimate that the £1,000 million of capital investment would create 165,000 jobs while the same amount of money in tax relief would create only 30,000 jobs?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not agree. This Government is spending through the taxpayer a considerable amount on the infrastructure. This year, partly because of the drought last year, we are increasing the amount of investment in the water industry. It is 9 per cent up on this year's investment on major roads is 27 per cent greater than by the Government of which Dr Owen was a member.

I do not agree, and I do not know where Dr Owen gets it from, that expenditure on infrastructure is the best way of increasing jobs. We get a far better deal from the £2,000 million expenditure on special measures which helps between 400,000 and 600,000 people.

Mr Anthony Blair (Sedgefield, Lab): When is work on the infrastructure going to be done? Delay is making the cure costlier. Any room for manoeuvre on Budget day should

be dedicated to measures that increase investment in the infrastructure and thus combine necessity, efficiency and employment.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not quite understand why he is not hearing what I am saying about the amounts achieved by public sector investment. It remains at about the same level as in 1978-79: that is £24,000 million.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Will Mrs Thatcher ensure that during 1985 the main economic target will be continued reduction in the level of inflation. This is likely to lead to the greatest number of people in employment.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. We shall of course maintain our objective of continuing to reduce inflation.

I understand that might find some support on the Opposition side. I recall the occasion when Mr Hattersley said in December 1978: "Our immediate intention is to hold the inflation rate at or about its present level."

"Our eventual aim is to reduce the level to that enjoyed by our most successful competitors. Unless we achieve our objective none of our other policies, economic growth, lower inflation, higher investment and improved services financed by public expenditure, can fully succeed." (Loud Conservative cheers.)

Dr Oonagh McDonald, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: Why, in her answers about public investment, does Mrs Thatcher continually ignore the fact that the Treasury report talks about many millions of pounds worth of repairs still to be carried out to roads, sewers and houses in public housing?

Why does Mrs Thatcher ignore the fact that many people are living in gross discomfort in damp and dilapidated houses? Repairs to those houses would make their lives far more comfortable and provide many jobs.

Mrs Thatcher: This Government is spending some £24,000 million on public sector investment. On housing, there has been a switch of emphasis. It is getting more of the public to the private sector. That reflects this Government belief that most people wish to own their own homes.

Home-occupation rose by 1.7 million between 1979 and 1984. Dr McDonald clearly criticizes the record of her own Government because the dwelling stock in this country rose by 900,000 between 1979 and 1984.

Mr Hattersley later during business questions, asked Mr John Biffen, leader of the House, if he could remind the Prime Minister that when she so flatteringly quoted what he said, unemployment at the time was more than two million less than at present.

It was announced that there would be a debate on Tuesday on an Opposition motion on the reduction of unemployment through public investment.



Tebbit welcomed back

MPs cheered and waved their order papers in traditional fashion when Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, returned to the Government front bench during questions about Northern Ireland.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was interrupted during an answer about the Northern Ireland assembly, welcomed Mr Tebbit warmly.

I congratulate him on the courage he has shown throughout these past weeks (he said) and I ask him to offer our very best wishes to his wife.

Mr Stuart Bell, (Middlesbrough, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, echoed the welcome in saying: As duty officer of her Majesty's Opposition, may I take the opportunity to welcome Mr Tebbit to his place. May I paraphrase the song? We have grown accustomed to his style and hope and pray that he is now restored to his full strength and vigour.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, later asked Mr Hurd to make clear to the population of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic that the one thing which united all parties in the Commons was their determined opposition to terrorism.

He added: We all rejoice to see Mr Tebbit here and we wish him and Mrs Tebbit well.

Mr Tebbit sat smiling, next to Mrs Thatcher, for about half an hour while the Prime Minister answered questions.

Inquiry refused into McCabe death

ULSTER

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, rejected demands that he should order a public inquiry into the death of Mrs Nora McCabe, who was killed about two years ago in Belfast, when he said that he could not second guess the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions who had said that all the evidence available.

Mr Robert Parry (Liverpool, Riverside, Lab) said that 79 MPs has signed a motion calling for an inquiry into the tragic and unnecessary death of the young mother of three children.

Will he reconsider his decision not to have a public inquiry? His compensation been paid to dependants?

Mr Hurd: I have thought hard and long about this. There are two aspects. The first is possible action against individual police officers arising from the death.

I cannot second guess the independent decisions of the DPP who has looked at all the evidence, including the film, part of which was shown recently on television. I have no grounds or standing to second guess that.

I have looked carefully at the use of baton rounds. Every incident in which the RUC has to use the rounds is reported to me and every round has to be accounted for. Compensation has been paid.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesbrough, Lab), an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said that on December 20 the minister had said in a debate that the law provided that any person might use only such force as was reasonable and it was incumbent on the police and the Army to operate the law.

Can he say that the force used in the killing of an innocent bystander was reasonable in relation to the circumstances surrounding that death? If not, why not? Will he accede to demands for an inquiry and establish culpability, if culpability there is?

Mr Hurd: I was trying to explain the reason and I do not believe I can second guess the decision of the DPP who had access to all the evidence available or modify my answer to Mr Parry. What happened to the action by her husband against the Chief Constable was that it was settled out of court on November 29 for a substantial sum.

Sufficient powers over flags

The RUC was confident it had adequate public order powers to deal with the provocative display of flags and had not used the Firearms and Explosives (Display) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964, do so since 1969.

Mr Nicholas Scott, Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

There were no plans to re-enact the Act but its use and the need for it were kept under review, he said in reply to Mr Kevin McNamara (Hill North, Lab).

Mr Scott agreed with Mr Harold McCasker (Upper Bann, OUP) who said that, whether the Act were repealed or not, the police would still have to intervene where the flaunting of a flag was likely to lead to a breach of the peace.

Mr Stuart Bell, an Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland: The only time this Act was enforced in the mid-1960s it was used off the Divis Street riot and, since then, it appears that under the common law the same powers exist to prevent a breach of the peace. It is superfluous, irrelevant and therefore should be repealed.

Mr Scott: The powers which the RUC uses exist under the public order Northern Ireland order, 1981.

Opportunity for leaders in Province

There was an opportunity for the elected leaders of Northern and Southern Ireland to move away from arguing across a divide and to find ways of holding practical discussions, Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Mr Stephen Ross (isle of Wight, E): Does he agree that the maintenance of good relations between Dublin and Westminster is paramount and also there are parts of the forum worth building on, not totally dismissed, and that a further parliamentary tier to the Irish-Anglo Parliamentary Council is desirable?

Mr Hurd: A good working relationship between the Republic and the United Kingdom is in the interests of Northern Ireland as well as Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. The point about the parliamentary tier is essentially one for the parliamentarians concerned and not one in which the Government should take the initiative.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Would he shy away from taking any new political or constitutional initiatives in Northern Ireland in the near future?

Mr Hurd: I have tried to be steady and reasonable in what I have said about these things. There is an opportunity now, primarily for the elected leaders in the Province, to move away from arguing across the divide and finding ways in which they can hold practical discussions. If I can help them I am ready to do so.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on report of Select Committee on the Environment on acid rain.

House of Lords (2.30): Bill (Restriction of Liability) Bill.

Monday: Trustee Savings Banks Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Debate on Opposition motion on unemployment and public investment.

Wednesday: Motions on rate support grant orders for England and Wales.

Thursday: Debate on Government motion on regional policy.

Friday: Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill, Small Business Bill.

and Motor Cycle Crash Helmets (Restriction of Liability) Bill.

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Minister seeks early report

EXPLOSION

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, told the Commons he had asked for a preliminary report at the earliest opportunity from the Health and Safety Commission on the explosion at Newham House, Putney, that morning.

All the evidence available pointed to it being a gas explosion and teams both from the executive and South East Gas had started their investigations, he said.

So far it was known that three people had died, six were unaccounted for and a further two were in hospital. Mr David Meller, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, and MP for Putney, had told him of the skill and bravery shown by the rescue services in the dangerous conditions, he added.

He agreed to a request by Mr Nicholas Soames (Crawley, C) who had called for a statement on the explosion, for the report of the inquiry to be prepared urgently and made public.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said this was the first domestic gas explosion to be handled by the Health and Safety Executive since it took over responsibility in 1984. He asked for the executive to make an assessment of gas explosions in the last five years in its report.

Mr King said it was worth remembering that there were 16 million gas consumers in Britain and nine million gas central heating systems. Last year there were 25 serious gas explosions and a steady decline in the number of accidents in the past three years.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) called for an investigation into the response time by the emergency services and for money to be made available for maintaining the infrastructure if it was shown, for instance, that the condition of the piping in the present bad weather had been a contributory factor to the inability to deal quickly and properly with complaints which had been made about the gas service in Putney in recent weeks.

Mr King said he could not comment on Mr Hughes's last remarks but Sequa had received call at 7.02 am and its van had been outside the block of flats at 7.12 am, the time of the explosion.

Government move to assist hard-hit dairy farmers

AGRICULTURE

The Government wanted to help the group of milk producers hit particularly hard by the introduction of EEC quotas. Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons when moving the second reading of the Milk (Cessation of Production) Bill.

That group, he said, comprised the small specialist producers with no alternative to milk production because of the kind of farms they occupied and who had to come to adapt to lower levels under the quota system. They might suffer exceptional hardships as a result of quotas.

The Government's aim was to allow those producers to return to their 1983 levels of production without becoming liable to supplementary levies.

The outgoing scheme had therefore been introduced to compensate those who were willing to give up dairy farming so that the quotas thereby released could be reallocated to those in particular need.

There was no existing United Kingdom legislation on which the scheme could be based and the Government had decided to start it on a non-statutory basis, with legislation to follow later, hence the introduction of the Bill.

The cost of the scheme would be up to £50 million over five years, at the rate of 13p a litre of milk surrendered or the equivalent of £650 per cow.

Overall, UK wholesale producers' primary quota allocations had been set at 9.5 cent below 1983 levels of production.

The outgoing scheme came into operation in July, 1984 and 45 per cent of the payments so far made had gone to tenant farmers. In order to qualify, outgoing must give up their quotas in full and could not return to milk production as long as the scheme was in operation.

Tenants in England and Wales required their landlord's consent. The Bill provided that compensation payments could be recovered if the conditions of the scheme were not complied with.

The Bill would not come into effect until two months after its enactment to allow similar arrangements to be made in Northern Ireland through an Order in Council.

There was likely to be a substantial shortfall in the quota made available by the scheme in Northern Ireland which was

disappointing and had implications for small producers and those who met the exceptional hardship criteria. His department was looking at ways to deal with this poor response.

Mr John Howe Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture (East Lothian, Lab), said the minister negotiated a lower deal for the British dairy industry last March. Forty years progress was thrown into reverse virtually overnight. Britain had the best case, but the minister managed to come away with just about the worst deal and must stand condemned for that failure.

He would have a final chance to redeem himself in the eyes of the industry when it came to the 1985-86 price fixing negotiations. He should seek to ensure that the additional 1 per cent cut in

production due in April should not apply to Britain. He had given more than a decade of support to the producers who had suffered more than enough already, and it was right to demand that he should retreat no further.

The Opposition understood the need to restrain dairy production in the Community and the need to restructure the industry, but over-production was not a significant problem in Britain. There was no need for the minister to make the concessions he made last year. It was as though he had one hand on the throat of the dairy industry and the other across his eyes because he could not bear to see the effects of what he was doing.

At least 250 dairy stockmen were likely to lose their jobs and yet no offer of compensation had been made to them or other employees in the dairy industry.

We are appalled (he said) at the way the Government has treated the

farming industry in the last year. What this industry needs is sensible restructuring. When it is getting more like rapid strangulation.

The Labour Party was not opposed to the principle of compensation for farmers going out of milk production. That is why it would not be voting against the scheme tonight, but the Bill needed major rethinking during its committee stage.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said there was a particular hardship for those farmers who had invested in expanding their milk production at the direct encouragement of the Agricultural and Development Advisory Service right up until the day the quotas were announced.

He was pleased that Mr Jopling had not suggested today that farmers should have foreseen what would happen, as he had done last year, as the minister himself had not shown such foresight.

There was strong resentment against the delay in hearing results of appeals. It was believed the panels and tribunals were inadequate. Another belief was that different panels, often in adjoining areas, were giving widely differing allocations of secondary quota though the facts were similar.

The scheme would be tolerable only if ministers could extract from the Treasury the tiny sum of £25 million to buy sufficient quota to allow the allocations of secondary quota to go through without diminution.

Mr Gerald Howells (Ceredigion and Pembroke North, L) said the quota system was a sham and farmers were being put out of business. Many of them did not wish to go out of business but saw no alternative. In the longer term this could only have a damaging effect on the industry. Small farmers were the backbone of the agriculture industry. The Bill was read a second time.



Home Robertson: Minister got lousy deal for Britain.

Massive Soviet capability in chemical weapons

DEFENCE

There was no change proposed in the Government's policy on chemical weapons, a capability abandoned by Britain in the late 1950s, Mrs Thatcher assured the Commons during Prime Minister's questions.

But Mrs Thatcher added that as a responsible government they had a duty to keep defence policy under review in the light of the massive

Soviet capability in chemical weapons.

The Prime Minister's remarks followed the report of the ministerial committee chaired by her, is considering a proposal that Britain should resume the manufacture of chemical weapons.

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bexleyheath, C), who raised the issue, urged Mrs Thatcher to make it crystal clear that Britain would keep to its policy of improving defences

against chemical weapons, seeking international agreement on their abandonment, and would not resort to the manufacture of chemical weapons.

Mrs Thatcher: The facts are that Britain abandoned its chemical warfare capability in the late 1950s. There has been no change in Government policy since then. Nor is any change now proposed.

But as a responsible Government we have a duty to keep defence

policy under review in the light of the massive Soviet capability in chemical weapons.

The Government is playing a leading part in the international negotiations in Geneva for a comprehensive, verifiable and worldwide ban on these weapons.

We tabled important initiatives in March 1983 and February 1984. We abandoned our chemical weapons. Any criticism should be of the Soviet Union.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Trustee Savings Banks Bill, second reading.

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Thursday: Debate on Government motion on regional policy.

Friday: Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Bill, Small Business Bill.

and Motor Cycle Crash Helmets (Restriction of Liability) Bill.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Administration of Justice Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Administration of Justice Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debates on disengagement on relations between Britain and the United States and on a cross-Channel link.

Thursday: Prosecution of Offences Bill, committee.

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New £1m fencing at Greenham Common among security moves

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Security at Britain's main nuclear bases and weapons factories is being intensified to counter "weaknesses", Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, disclosed yesterday.

The measures, which will almost certainly lead to sensitive sites such as Greenham Common being protected by extra-strong fencing costing £1 million, intruder alarm systems and sophisticated electronic devices, come after a critical report into security at military installations, published last July by the Commons defence select committee.

The inquiry by MPs, which examined the level of protection for military sites against the threat posed by terrorists and protesters, highlighted embarrassing shortcomings and demanded urgent action.

Mr Heseltine, in his reply to the criticisms, insists that the Government's general approach to security is sound and that security at nuclear weapons stores has never been breached. "It is nevertheless accepted that in certain specific areas the committee have identified weaknesses", he said.

He details several measures in hand "to achieve lasting improvements to the current state of security" at nuclear bases. Special welded mesh fencing and alarm systems are already planned for the submarine base at Faslane, Strathclyde, home of the Polaris fleet, and after "encouraging" tests, it will soon be decided whether similar security equipment should be

fitted at Greenham Common and elsewhere.

It will cost about £1 million to place special fencing round Greenham Common's nine-mile perimeter, while an extra £2.5 million would pay for closed-circuit television and sensors.

Ministers are expected to approve new security measures at Greenham Common within the next few months. Royal Air Force stations with Tornados aircraft are also likely to receive increased protection.

Meanwhile, extra tests to combat the known capability of terrorists are being carried out at bases as part of a Nato scheme to improve procedures and training for guards, Mr Heseltine said.

"The frequency of stopping and searching of both personnel and vehicles is being reviewed. Arrangements are being made for regular exercises to test the security of each of the factories," Mr Heseltine said.

Ministry of Defence police, who have been faced with vastly increased workloads owing to activities of the anti-nuclear movement, will be assisted by a new 50-member reserve unit.

A second reserve unit is planned, and ministry police are also being sent to several military establishments for the first time.

Mr Heseltine has reacted to criticisms that ministry police are overstretched by commissioning an independent study into the force to work out a long-term strategy for its future role, composition and size.



Army drill change for short rifle

The British Army is changing its ceremonial rifle drill because its new rifle is about 15 inches shorter than the present one.

At just over 36 inches the new rifle, demonstrated (above) yesterday at the Army's School of Infantry at Warrimoor in Wiltshire, is too short for the butt to be rested on the ground while the soldier is standing.

The main changes are that when standing at attention the rifle will be held vertically against the shoulder, and when standing at ease the rifle will be held horizontally across the body. The photograph on the left shows the new and old styles of standing at ease.

The drill was last changed more than 20 years ago when the present self-loading rifle was introduced. It is unlikely to be used for important ceremonial occasions until 1987.

Yard's new code puts emphasis on civil rights

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

A new code of conduct for the Metropolitan Police emphasizes the rights of citizens and calls for restraint in the exercise of police powers. The code places a new emphasis on the social service rather than crime-fighting role of the modern police, according to *Police*, the journal of the Police Federation, which has leaked details. All Metropolitan Police officers are to receive copies of the guidance.

It tells police that their duty is "to act always for the general public good, as a helpful and reasonable public servant, and not merely as an enforcer of the law."

The *Handbook of Guidance for Personal Behaviour* remains in keeping with the primary objects for the Force laid down in 1829 by Richard Mayne, one of the two joint Commissioners of the Metropolitan Police. He said then that the principal object was to prevent crime.

The updated code to be introduced by Sir Kenneth Newman, the present Commissioner, emphasizes the need to prevent and detect crime; to keep the peace; to assuage fear of crime and disorder.

But it also calls on officers to sustain the right of free speech, free association, access to legal advice and to silence and to sustain the presumption of innocence.

Society must query its role in crime, policing expert says

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Society should ask itself whether it shares the blame for the rise in crimes such as burglary and mugging rather than accuse the police of failing in their duties, an expert on policing strategy said yesterday.

Professor John Brown, director of the Centre for Policy Studies in Social Order at the Cranfield Institute of Technology, said that the police had improved their efficiency to deal with organized crime but the methods had not summed up the "mass" crime.

He told a London conference in policing in the 1980s, organized by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities: "But to what extent is 'mass' crime a police problem? If we accuse the police of failing society in this sphere we must also question whether - and how - society is failing the police."

Studies in France had shown recently that the rapid rise of "mass" crime was linked to a wide range of social and economic factors, many of them not police matters, Professor Brown said.

Although the Home Office talked of a common crime prevention strategy, there were barriers. They included police attitudes on enforcing the law as

against keeping the peace, a lack of common purpose between the police and other agencies and between the police and communities.

Professor Brown said that local politicians and the police were too often to be found playing "games of catch-as-catch-can for power on the tricky pitch of 'accountability', to the growing dismay of society on the sidelines, concerned more with the goals of peace and security."

There was also a shift towards central control of policing policy at a time when many police leaders were looking towards decentralism within their forces to create greater co-operation, Professor Brown said.

What was needed to fight "mass" crime, if the police were not to continue to be expected to get results impossible to achieve, was co-operation in the sharing of information, experience and responsibility. There must also be a common assessment of preventive policies.

But the signs for the future were not fair, Professor Brown said. Neither the left nor the right of the political spectrum was creating any long-term strategy.

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Investment	Average monthly income	Investment	Average monthly income	Investment	Average monthly income
£ 2,000	£ 20.00	£11,000	£110.00	£20,000	£200.00
£ 3,000	£ 30.00	£12,000	£120.00	£25,000	£250.00
£ 4,000	£ 40.00	£13,000	£130.00	£30,000	£300.00
£ 5,000	£ 50.00	£14,000	£140.00	£35,000	£350.00
£ 6,000	£ 60.00	£15,000	£150.00	£40,000	£400.00
£ 7,000	£ 70.00	£16,000	£160.00	£45,000	£450.00
£ 8,000	£ 80.00	£17,000	£170.00	£50,000	£500.00
£ 9,000	£ 90.00	£18,000	£180.00	You can hold any amount from £2,000 up to £50,000 in multiples of £1,000. Each £1,000 of Income Bonds produces an average of £10.00 a month - £120.00 a year.	
£10,000	£100.00	£19,000	£190.00		

Over a quarter of a million people are now enjoying a regular monthly income from their investment in National Savings Income Bonds. You too could have something extra coming in every month.

Currently you'll get 12% p.a. interest on your Income Bonds and the table above shows what this would pay you.

Enjoy life with a monthly income. The interest is sent on the 5th of each month direct to your home or your bank. It means some extra money coming in regularly to help pay the bills or simply to spend enjoying life.

Your savings are never touched. Your monthly cheque represents the interest on your investment, so you can enjoy an extra monthly income and be sure that your capital is completely safe - the cash you put in is the cash you'll get back.

Top rates of interest. Income Bonds currently pay 12% p.a. gross. The rate paid may change from time to time, but it will be kept competitive. Interest is calculated on a day to day basis. It is paid in full and is subject to tax if you are a taxpayer.

Getting your money out. You need give only 3 months' notice to have any Bond repaid. And there will be no loss of interest if you've held your Bond for a year or more. (For details of earlier repayment, see paragraph 6 of the Prospectus below.)

Invest here and now. You can be sure your investment will always provide a worthwhile income - month in, month out. All you have to do is complete the coupon and send it with your cheque (payable to 'National Savings') to NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs. FY3 9YP. Or ask for an application form at your Post Office. It's probably the most enjoyable investment you'll ever make.

NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BONDS



PROSPECTUS

1 The Director of Savings, as authorized by the Secretary of State, has approved this Prospectus for the issue of National Savings Income Bonds (Bonds).

2 The Bonds are a Government security issued under the National Savings Act 1969. They are registered in the National Savings Stock Register and are subject to the regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force and as they are amended. The principal and interest on the Bonds will be a charge on the National Savings Fund.

PURCHASE
3.1 Subject to a minimum purchase of £2,000 (twenty per cent) a Bond may be purchased for £1,000 or a multiple of that sum. Payment in full must be made at the time of application. The date of purchase will be the date of receipt of the application by the National Savings Stock Office, Blackpool, or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.

3.2 An investment certificate, bearing the date of purchase, will be issued in respect of each purchase.

HOLDING LIMITS
4.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £1,000 or more than £50,000 of Bonds. Bonds are issued from time to time and the limit on the total amount of Bonds held by a person may be increased or decreased by the Director of Savings.

4.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum unit purchase from time to time, upon giving notice. No such variation will prejudice any right under the prospectus acquired by a bondholder immediately before the variation in respect of a Bond then held by him.

INTEREST
5.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase at a rate determined by the Treasury (the Treasury rate).

5.2 Interest will be payable on the 5th day of each month. The Director of Savings may, at his discretion, suspend the payment of interest on Bonds held by a person who is not a resident in the United Kingdom at the time of purchase.

5.3 If on repayment the Bond is, by reason of paragraph 6.1, earned interest exceeds the total already paid in respect of the Bond under paragraph 5.2, the balance will be deducted from the sum payable on repayment. Any interest earned on the Bond and not already paid before repayment will be added to the sum repaid. In the case of repayment under paragraph 6.2, if it is not reasonably practicable to stop an interest payment from being made after the repayment date, the amount of that interest payment will be deducted from the sum to be repaid.

5.4 The Treasury may from time to time vary the Treasury rate upon giving notice.

REPAYMENT

6.1 A bondholder may obtain repayment of a Bond at any time before a redemption upon giving 3 calendar months' notice. The Bond will be repaid at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the redemption date when repayment will be made in full. The interest on the Bond will be repaid in full when the redemption date falls before the first anniversary of purchase up to the redemption date.

6.2 Where an application for repayment of a Bond is made after the redemption date, the date of purchase up to the redemption date.

6.3 Any application for repayment of a Bond must be made in writing to the Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, and accompanied by the investment certificate. The period of notice given by the bondholder will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the Bonds and Stock Office.

6.4 Applications may be made for repayment of part of a Bond, in an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum provided that the holding of Bonds remaining after the part repayment will still satisfy the minimum holding limit imposed by paragraph 4.1. Interest on the part repaid will be calculated under paragraph 5.2. The balance of the Bond will be repaid at the Treasury rate from the date of purchase up to the date of repayment, whether or not repayment occurs before the first anniversary of the date of purchase.

PAYMENTS
7 Interest will be payable direct to a National Savings Bank or other bank account or by cheque sent direct to the post. Capital will be repaid direct, to a National Savings Bank account or by cheque sent direct to the post.

MINORS
8 A Bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, or to whom any other person, will not be repaid except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

TRANSFER
9 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. Transfer of a Bond or part of a Bond will only be allowed if an amount of £1,000 or a multiple of that sum will not be allowed if the holding of the Bonds or the transfer would result in the holding of Bonds exceeding the limit imposed by paragraph 4.1.

10 The Treasury may give any notice required under paragraph 4.2, 5.4, 5.5 or 11 of the prospectus, in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any other manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes it will be deemed as if it had been given in the Gazettes.

GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS
11 Each Bond may be held for a guaranteed period of 10 years from the first interest date after the date of purchase. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable under the terms of the prospectus until the redemption of the Bond. The Bond will be redeemed at par value at the end of the guaranteed period or on any other date thereafter, in whole or in part, upon the giving of written notice by the bondholder. The Director of Savings will write to the bondholder before redemption at the last interest date for the Bond holding, informing him of the date of the redemption and the amount to be repaid.

APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL SAVINGS INCOME BOND

To NSIB, Bonds and Stock Office, Blackpool, Lancs FY3 9YP

1 I/We accept the terms of the Prospectus and apply for a Bond to the value of: £ ,000 Initial minimum of £2,000 and multiples of £1,000 to a maximum of £50,000

2 Surname(s) Full Christian name(s) or forename(s) Mr/Mrs/Miss

3 Address (including postcode)

4 Name of Trust (if applicable) Date of Birth (essential if under 7) Day Month Year

5 NAME AND ADDRESS FOR DESPATCH OF INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (if different from above):
Name
Address

6 DIVIDENDS TO BE PAID BY CREDIT TO: (If not to a National Savings Bank or other bank account, enter name and address to which dividend warrants should be sent)

7 Bank Sorting Code (Shown in the top right hand area of your own cheques)
Address A/C No. A/C Name(s)

8 Signature(s) Date

Unemployed drown their sorrows

Beneath the national aggregates for disposable income and consumer durables, modern Britain is fostering an underclass of unemployed and unskilled workers, afflicted by family breakdown and alcoholism. DAVID WALKER, SOCIAL POLICY CORRESPONDENT, describes the two nations disclosed by the new edition of *Social Trends*.

In recent years a network of advisory and counselling services has grown up, among them Alcoholics Anonymous. In the six years before 1983 AA's clients increased from 13,400 to 30,000 - and the organization expanded from 895 to 1,880 branches - a reflection of growing alcohol abuse.

Social Trends shows how, for men of all ages, serious alcohol problems are much more prevalent in Ulster and Scotland, and among the unemployed. In spite of the fact that the unemployed usually have less to spend on drink and everything else, there is a considerably higher proportion of heavy drinkers among unemployed men.

About 43 per cent of unemployed men aged 25 to 44 are estimated as "heavy drinkers", compared with 28 per cent of men of the same age in work.

This pattern of drinking reflects a cultural habit most unemployed men have manual working class backgrounds, and it is the manual socio-economic groups which include relatively high proportions of heavy drinkers.

Unemployment's effects are more evident than in previous editions of *Social Trends*. Divorce rates among couples where the man is jobless are noticeably high. There is a link with chronic illness.

Blacks are more likely to have experienced joblessness than white workers, likewise young people. The latest surveys (for 1983) show that about 94 per cent of professional people and those in management jobs have not been

Men experiencing joblessness in the year prior to interview

% experiencing one or more aspects out of work	
Age group	
15-24	35
25-34	18
35-44	18
45-54	18
All men aged 15-64	18
Colour	
White	17
Non-white	29
Social type	
Professional/managerial	6
Skilled non-manual	11
All non-manual	8
Skilled manual	17
Semi-skilled/unskilled manual	22
All manual	23

unemployed in the past year. But 77 per cent of manual workers had experienced no unemployment in the past year.

The primary division in British society remains work. Non-manual men in 1983 earned £190.70 gross a week; manual men earned £140.10. About four-fifths of the redundancies declared in 1983 were in production industries, and the redundancy rate in those industries, where manual workers tend to be employed, was eight times as high as that in the service sector.

Babies born to families where the male breadwinner is in a manual job weigh noticeably less at birth than the infants of skilled and professional people.

In spite of growth in car ownership, about 41 per cent of British households have no vehicle, meaning they either stayed out or used public transport.

Tomorrow: New Trends
Social Trends 15 (Stationery Office), £19.95.
Leading article, page 13

Men's Drinking Habits

Age Group/Employment	Type of Drinker as % of population	Abstinent	Occasional	Frequent	Heavy
Age 15-24					
Working	4	11	49	35	
Unemployed	7	19	36	38	
Economically inactive (ag student)	9	11	52	27	
Age 25-44					
Working	3	19	51	28	
Unemployed	7	13	36	43	
Economically inactive					

Sample too small to be reliable.

Doctor on bomb plot charge is remanded

A part-time consultant psychiatrist, Dr Maura O'Shea, aged 65, was remanded in custody for a week yesterday when she appeared before magistrates.

Dr O'Shea, of Liverpool, was accused of conspiring to cause an explosion.

Police officers patrolled the roofs of neighbouring buildings and everyone entering the court was searched. Dr O'Shea, of Southill Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham, appeared, charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 1974, of conspiring with four others to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom.

Soccer fan is jailed for kicking player

A Glasgow Celtic soccer supporter, who attacked a player at a European Cup tie was jailed for three months by Strangeways magistrates, Manchester, yesterday.

Hugh Honeyman, aged 31, of Mansfield Hill, North Chingford, Essex, ran on to the pitch at Celtic's match with the Austrian team Rapid Vienna.

He broke away from the police who had restrained him and kicked Rapid's goalkeeper, Peter Pacult, in the groin. Honeyman had admitted behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Geoffrey Smith

One of the problems with East-West relations is that the attitude of the West oscillates so easily from shrill abuse to euphoria and back again. When President Reagan was making his "evil empire" speeches the danger was that his strident tone made it hard for public opinion to accept that he was prepared to deal with the Soviet threat on a rational basis. Now there is a danger that Geneva euphoria may make it hard for public opinion to accept that there is really much of a Soviet threat at all.

If one were to judge from some of the heady rhetoric in the communiqué, one might assume that a new dawn had broken in which it was bliss to be alive. If that idea takes hold, excessive expectations will in due course be disappointed and there will be the risk of the pendulum swinging back too far once again.

The Geneva agreement itself is a good one for both positive and negative reasons. It encourages the hope that it may be possible to achieve a balance of strength at a lower level of arms, and offers the surer prospect that the very process of negotiation will reduce tension. A constructive dialogue is something to be welcomed for its own sake, irrespective of what comes out of it.

Had there been no agreement - or if Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko had just agreed to meet again themselves in a few months - there would have been a sense of anti-climax which would have damaged relations both between East and West and between the United States and its European allies. We should all have been arguing today as to whether American or Soviet intransigence was more to blame and many a finger would have been pointed at President Reagan's attachment to his Star Wars scheme.

Hidden dangers of Star Wars policy

As it is, the immediate effect is to present Mr Reagan for the first time to the people of Europe as an apostle of peace. This could do much to reduce the mistrust with which he has always been regarded on this side of the Atlantic.

But the Geneva agreement does not eliminate the danger of later difficulties between the United States and its allies. The negotiating procedure to be adopted, with one delegation on each side splitting into separate groups to discuss intermediate-range missiles, strategic arms and weapons in space, has been chosen deliberately to emphasize the inter-relationship between these three topics.

This means that progress on strategic and weapons in space will depend upon a commitment not to deploy weapons in space. In his press conference on Wednesday evening President Reagan seemed to be taking the position on Star Wars that for the time being the United States was simply conducting research, to which nobody could object, and that only if such research was successful would it be appropriate to negotiate over deployment.

That may be logical enough. There is a lot to be said for not straining diplomatic muscles over a hypothesis. But if this logic is not accepted by the Soviet Union, the United States might well find itself being condemned by European public opinion and quietly criticized by European governments.

... And too much rhetorical idealism

The risk of transatlantic misunderstanding can best be minimized by the closest possible diplomatic contact and by being careful not to oversell the prospects for specific agreements on arms control. The United States has made an encouraging start to meet the first of these requirements. There has clearly been a deliberate effort both to put allied governments in the picture, and to be seen to be doing so.

But American leaders have been less consistently careful not to raise exaggerated expectations. President Reagan seems determined not to be outdone in rhetorical idealism, whether realistic or not.

It may seem harsh to criticize him for this when he has so often been attacked for going too far in the other direction. But he surely cannot believe in "the complete elimination of nuclear weapons", even if only as an ultimate goal. It would therefore be better if he did not speak as if he expected others to do so.

Ramphal seeks ways to cool Tamil crisis in Sri Lanka

By Our Foreign Staff

Mr Shridath Ramphal, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, is understood to be preparing an initiative to reduce tension in Sri Lanka and improve its relations with India. He is thought to be setting up a working group which would recommend the form that an initiative might take, and perhaps set down general guidelines. The group would probably include a Sinhalese and a Tamil academic.

If a satisfactory basis for a move by Mr Ramphal can be established, he might visit Delhi and Colombo. The development of an initiative is thought to be at an early and delicate stage, and it is likely to be several weeks before anything tangible emerges.

Sri Lanka has been suffering civil unrest, with members of the Tamil community in the north and north-east pressing for greater autonomy and Sinhalese troops using increasingly brutal methods to counter Tamil terrorism.

The crisis has led to a deterioration in relations between Sri Lanka and India, with Sri Lanka claiming, and India denying, that Tamil terrorists are training in India.

COLOMBO: Security forces destroyed the base of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, killing 14 rebels - including the group's Sri Lankan leader, named as Pandithan

- and capturing 44 people, the Security Minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, said yesterday (Donovan Moldrich writes).

The raid took place at Achchuvelli, near Jaffna. The security forces also captured an arsenal that included rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and landmines. They filled two lorries when removed.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are the biggest of about 30 rebel groups and its leader, Mr Velupillai Prabhakaran, operates from Madras. It was founded in 1972, when a breakaway group, which also operates from Madras, formed the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, which is regarded as the second biggest of the rebel groups.

Mr Athulathmudali said yesterday that most of the captured arms were of Indian origin. It was time the rebels realized that there was no way they could win against the armed services and that their efforts were futile.

The minister said documents seized in the raid showed the connection between the group and its headquarters in Madras. Among papers seized was the identity card of a Japanese monk who was shot dead in Jaffna a few months ago.

Three soldiers sustained slight injuries in the operation. The Government imposed 24-hour censorship on local newspapers.

The superpower dialogue

Reagan hails a new beginning

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Despite Afghanistan, Poland, KAL flight 007, Nicaragua, Cambodia and missile deployments in Europe, both Washington and Moscow are sending out positive signals about the prospects for super-power relations in 1985.

President Reagan said on Wednesday night that the two-day Geneva arms talks with the Soviet Union could be "the beginning of a new dialogue" although he did not envisage an early summit meeting with President Chernenko.

He told a nationally televised press conference that he wanted 1985 to emerge "as one of dialogue and negotiations, a year that leads to better relations between the United States and the Soviet Union".

He said the United States would be flexible, patient and determined "in future talks and urged Moscow "to help give new life and positive results to that process of dialogue".

His comments were made as senior US officials fanned out from Geneva to brief American allies on the outcome of the talks between Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, and

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The Administration has usually decided to brief Hungary and Romania - both Warsaw Pact countries - and Yugoslavia on the talks.

US officials are keenly interested to discover the extent to which Warsaw Pact countries have expressed concern to the Soviet Union about the collapse of arms negotiations over the past 13 months. Mr Kenneth Adelman, director of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, will visit all three countries next week.

Mr Reagan opened his press conference with a reminder that "our differences with the Soviet Union are many and profound". Forthcoming negotiations would be difficult but the United States would persevere.

"It is my hope that this week's meeting in Geneva, while only a single step, is the beginning of a new dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union," he said. The negotiations would be difficult "as we grapple with the issues

so central to peace and security for ourselves, our allies and the world."

The President defended his "Star Wars" programme, protesting that the term Star Wars was misleading - as merely a research project in its early stages. He insisted that it would be "way ahead of ourselves" to consider limits on deployment of any weapons systems that might emerge. Administration officials say deployment is unlikely before the end of the century.

President Reagan pledged to undertake international negotiations, when and if futuristic defence mechanisms are ready for deployment. That probably would be necessary because of existing limitations imposed by the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the Soviet Union.

He indicated that at this stage he saw no purpose in a summit meeting with President Chernenko. Asked whether he agreed with Mr Chernenko about reviving détente, Mr Reagan paused and said: "Yes, we would welcome such a thing if it is a two-way street."

Deficit pledge, page 15

Paris: Some reservations

France has given only a reserved welcome to the US-Soviet agreement to resume arms talks. While it has always been in favour of balanced arms reduction, it fears that the extended scope of the talks could undermine its own defence policy (Diana Geddes writes).

France is privately dismayed by the US agreement to start talks on the elimination of all nuclear weapons, as its own independent nuclear force forms the lynchpin of its total defence policy.

It also worried that the decision to bring all nuclear weapons into the same negotiations may increase pressure for the inclusion of France's own nuclear force.

Rome: Pope sees envoy

Mr Robert McFarlane, the US National Security Adviser, discussed the outcome of the Shultz-Gromyko talks in a 28-minute private audience yesterday with the Pope (John Earle writes). Before entering the Vatican, Mr McFarlane said: "President Reagan explicitly told me to ask the Pope's advice about the Geneva results".

As is usual with private audiences, the Vatican gave no information on what was said. At the end of the meeting, the Pope received the other members of Mr McFarlane's party.

Mr McFarlane went to the Vatican after giving Signor Bettino Craxi, the Socialist Prime Minister, a 45-minute briefing.

Bonn: Nitze briefs Kohl

Chancellor Kohl was briefed yesterday by Mr Paul Nitze, the US arms control adviser, on the Geneva talks, and the two men agreed that absolute discretion was essential if the negotiations were to succeed (Michael Binyon writes).

They also underlined the importance of close consultations and solidarity among the Western allies, according to Herr Peter Boenisch, the chief government spokesman. While ready to co-operate with the East, the West should remain prepared to defend its freedom.

Mr Nitze said that, while the West might be prepared for partial results such as progress on the intermediate nuclear weapons, this was not the Soviet view.

Both sides satisfied with US-Soviet trade meeting

Moscow (Reuters) - Two days of US-Soviet trade talks ended in Moscow with reports of progress.

The Under-Secretary for Commerce, Mr Lionel Olmer, headed the US delegation at the talks with the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Vladimir Sushkov. They were the first trade discussions at such a senior level between the two countries for six years.

Tass quoted Mr Olmer as saying that he was satisfied with the outcome of the formal talks, which covered a wide range of areas where US companies and

Soviet state organizations could find common interests.

Mr Sushkov told Tass that the talks had shown that US-Soviet trade could increase significantly if "artificial obstacles", not created by the Soviet Union, were removed.

This was apparently a reference to President Reagan's restrictions on the sale to Moscow of goods, especially high technology, which might have a military application.

US commerce officials believe there is substantial scope for increased trade within these limits.

Howe's last African stop

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here yesterday on the final leg of his African tour. Before leaving Lusaka Sir Geoffrey had a "warm and cordial" meeting with President Kaunda, at which he repeated Britain's wish to see full independence achieved in Namibia.

He is understood to have emphasized that Britain does not believe Namibian independence should be linked to the continued presence of Cuban

troops in Angola, but the Cuban presence is a factor which must be taken into account.

Sir Geoffrey will be repeating this viewpoint when he meets President Moi of Kenya today. His talks are likely also to cover the continuing conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia in the Horn of Africa, as well as routine matters like British aid.

Kenya is the biggest recipient of British aid in Africa, and expects to receive about £40 million this year.

The Popieluszko murder trial

Disclaimer on dirty tricks

From Roger Boyes

Warsaw

Former Colonel Adam Pietruszka, the most senior secret police officer charged with involvement in the killing of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, yesterday declared his innocence and insisted that he never authorized the use of force or "dirty tricks" against the pro-solidarity priest.

The 47-year-old career policeman, who has been closely involved in Polish Government negotiations with the Roman Catholic Church, spoke calmly, concisely and in vivid contrast to the politically aggressive posturing of his subordinate and co-defendant, former Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski. Mr Piotrowski completed his testimony yesterday and was characteristically embroiled in another courtroom row.

The lawyers of the Popieluszko family had been due to cross-examine him, the acknowledged ringleader of the kidnap on October 19, but Mr Piotrowski stood up and announced that he would answer none of their questions. "I know what I can expect from these gentlemen," he said, wazing a hand at three of the lawyers. "A human rights lawyer, Mr

Lining up for Nicaragua's elected assembly



Sandinista oath: Officers of the Nicaraguan National Assembly being sworn in on Wednesday. Left to right: Commander Carlos Nunez, president; Commander Leticia Herrera, Señor Clemente Guido and Señor Mauricio Diaz, vice-presidents; and Señor Rafael Solis, secretary.

Castro drops in to brighten Ortega's day

From Alan Tomlinson

Managua

The unexpected arrival of President Fidel Castro of Cuba injected a badly-needed shot of revolutionary excitement into an otherwise subdued occasion yesterday as the Nicaraguan President Señor Ortega, was sworn into office.

The giant figure of the Cuban leader, on only his second visit to Managua since the Sandinista revolution, lent stature to an event which very few other heads of state had felt able to attend. Only the Presidents of Yugoslavia and Surinam had turned up.

The absence of even one important Latin-American leader pointedly underlined Nicaragua's increasing isolation in the hemisphere. The poor

attendance is a measure of the Sandinista's startling loss of prestige in the world at large under the barrage of United States accusations that they are the principal villains of the regional piece.

Señor Ortega's formal assumption of the presidency might have proved something of a diplomatic embarrassment, had not Dr Castro decided to fly in at the last moment. Wearing olive-drab military fatigues and with his familiar greying beard nearly trimmed, he stepped off his plane amid tight security at Managua airport just four hours before the ceremony was due to start.

The foreign press corps had been roared under their beds at various hours of the night to be belatedly informed of a "sur-

prise visitor". Señor Ortega headed a hastily gathered welcoming party with no guard of honour to greet his nation's foremost ally. Cuba has sent thousands of soldiers, doctors, nurses and technicians to help Nicaragua build a socialist state.

Dr Castro, at the head of a large entourage, walked over to the press enclosure and shook a few hands. He made no statement. "Greetings to every body. Greetings to all Cubans," was all he said.

A Cuban-American cameraman, who had been denied access to the close-up pool of photographers by Cuban security agents, a slight he had taken personally, beamed with delight. "I got him, I got him," he cried. Señor Ortega starts his six-year term as Nicaragua's first post-

revolutionary president with little to celebrate other than the sheer survival of the revolution under the US military, economic and diplomatic assault.

The three-year-old, US-backed Contra war is costing the country dearly, and the economy is going down hill. Nicaragua's currency is worthless outside the country. Air fares now have to be paid for in dollars, which Nicaraguans are so eager to acquire that they will pay more than 10 times the all-time exchange rate. Inflation is rocketing.

● PRESS PROTEST: The opposition newspaper, *La Prensa*, did not publish on Wednesday because employees stopped work in protest against censorship (AP reports). Censors had previously rejected

more than 70 per cent of the material scheduled for the Tuesday edition.

The Government eased press restrictions in July, retaining it only for news dealing with state security or military affairs. But censors have been eliminating a broad range of news items, *La Prensa* editors say.

● PANAMA: CITY: The Contradictory group of national States and Nicaragua to settle their differences and help bring peace to Central America (Reuters reports).

Foreign ministers from Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama made the appeal in a communiqué at the end of a two-day meeting to evaluate progress in finding a solution. Leading article, page 15

Kennedy and Botha swap bitter words

Cape Town (AP) - Senator

Edward Kennedy traded bitter accusations yesterday with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, on the living conditions of American blacks. Later, the senator, who is on a fact-finding tour of South Africa, visited the condemned Crossroads squatter camp near here.

Mr Kennedy accused Mr Botha of making an "untrue attack on the United States" when the minister told South African television that the death rate for American black children was twice that of whites, and the black poverty rate was three times higher.

Mr Botha also said Mr Kennedy should stay out of South Africa's affairs and be more concerned with blacks in the US, especially in the senator's state of Massachusetts, where Mr Botha said, 17,500 black youngsters suffer from malnutrition.

In a statement to reporters, Mr Kennedy said: "The infant mortality rate for blacks in South Africa is not twice as high, but six times as high as for whites. Black people in South Africa are not three times as likely to be poor, but 30 times."

There are disparities in the United States between black Americans and white Americans... But they are disparities between Americans who have equal rights politically, not

between whites who have the privilege of citizenship and blacks who are treated as aliens in their own land."

In the afternoon, Mr Kennedy toured Crossroads, which the Government wants to demolish. Leaders of the 60,000 black squatters, who are to be moved to a new township farther from Cape Town, said they told Mr Kennedy they want to stay and build new homes at the present site.

With a crowd swelling behind him, the senator chatted with residents as he strolled among the shacks. He told a crowd of nearly 1,000 squatters that one of the mothers told him they hoped his visit would help ease "the agony we live in."

Answering the Government's contention that the new township for the squatters, Khayelitsha, is far better than housing at Crossroads, Mr Kennedy said: "It's so nice out at Khayelitsha, why don't the whites move out there?"

In a debate at the Crossroads clinic, Mr Fleno Beidenhuizen, the top white official for black affairs in the Cape Town area, said the Government created Khayelitsha because Crossroads was "overcrowded". The Rev Allan Boesak, one of Mr Kennedy's hosts, replied: "White people in this country are never told where they have to live."

Dream fails for widow

Paris - The year-long struggle by Mme Corinne Parpalax to have a baby by artificial insemination with the sperm of her dead husband has ended in failure (Diana Geddes writes).

Last August a French court granted Mme Parpalax the right of access to her dead husband's sperm, which he had deposited in a sperm bank soon after learning he was suffering from cancer of the testicles more than three years ago.

After Mr Alain Parpalax died in December, 1983, the sperm bank, backed by the Government, contested the

widow's right to the sperm on the ground that her husband had left no written will. Mme Parpalax replied that he had spoken to her of his desire to have a child, and said she very much wanted a son "to replace Alain".

However, Mr Parpalax was already ill when he decided to make the deposit with the sperm bank, and the sperm he left was of poor quality and small quantity. The doctors therefore decided to inseminate Mme Parpalax with all of the sperm at once to increase the chances of conception, but without success.

Kasparov fails to cash in on his advantage

Moscow (AP) - Gary Kasparov, the challenger, abandoned his attempt to secure his second victory in the world chess championship and agreed to a draw yesterday after 70 moves.

Kasparov had been described as having a good chance of winning against Karpov when the 40th game was adjourned.

White Kasparov, Black Karpov

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70

Quito deaths

Quito (Reuters) - Five people were killed on the first day of a 48-hour general strike called by Ecuadorian trade unions.

Ex-minister welcomes inquiry

Ankara (Reuters) - The Turkish Parliament decided unanimously to inquire into a bribery charge against the former Minister of State, Mr Ismail Ozdogar, in a move which could lead to his trial. Mr Ozdogar, aged 54, responsible for energy before his resignation last week, welcomed the move and told the 400-seat assembly: "My conscience is clear."

The Justice Ministry is also looking into the affairs in which Mr Lutfi Kocogozoglu, Turkey's largest private shipowner, has accused the ex-minister of accepting a bribe of nearly £50,000.

Hong Kong Bill published

The Government last night published the Hong Kong Bill, which provides for the ending of British sovereignty over the territory from July 1, 1997, under the terms of the agreement signed in Peking last month.

The legislation, which is to be given its second reading on January 21, includes wide powers for ministers to prevent people becoming stateless and to deal with other problems of nationality.

Flood of offers to bachelors

Pisa (Reuters) - The unmarried men of this tiny Spanish Pyrenean village say they can no longer cope with telephone calls after their advertisement for wives in a local newspaper started a flood of would-be brides.

"If it goes on like this we'll end up with more than 3,000 candidates for just 140 bachelors," said Señor José Antonio López, one of the men behind the idea.

Death on stage

Katmandu, Nepal (AP) - A nine-year-old boy playing the part of the Devil King in a theatrical performance was burnt to death in a fire scene, and two other boys were injured while trying to put out the flames.

Up and about

Louisville, Kentucky (Reuters) - The world's only patient with an artificial heart, Mr William Schroeder, aged 52, is strolling up to the equivalent of two city blocks at a brisk pace in his daily walks round hospital corridors.

Family tragedy

Paris (AP) - Firemen broke into a sixth-floor apartment here and found the bodies of all six members of the Guillemin family dead, apparently asphyxiated by a faulty water heater.

Song 'copied'

Kansas City (Reuters) - Twenty-eight years after the rock 'n' roll singer Buddy Holly recorded "That'll Be The Day", three musician brothers have filed a suit claiming the hit was copied from one of their songs.

Addis denial

Addis Ababa (AFP) - Ethiopia has dismissed as "malicious and mischievous" reports from Tel Aviv that it had agreed to accept famine relief supplies from the Israeli Red Cross.

Gibraltar talks open with emphasis on friendliness

From Richard Wigg, La Linea

British and Spanish officials began two days of talks yesterday which crossed from Gibraltar to prepare for next month's full opening of the frontier with Gibraltar. Mr. Wigg, British consul in La Linea, said the talks were being held in a friendly atmosphere. The British delegation, headed by Mr. Wigg, included Mr. John Broadbent, Gibraltar's deputy governor, and Mr. Francisco Mayans, special adviser to the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Spanish delegation, headed by Mr. Mayans, included Mr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cordero, Spanish consul in Gibraltar, and Mr. Antonio Díaz, mayor of La Linea. The talks are being held in a friendly atmosphere, with both sides expressing a desire to reach an agreement as soon as possible. The British side is concerned with the need to ensure that the frontier is opened in a way that is fair to both sides. The Spanish side is concerned with the need to ensure that the frontier is opened in a way that is fair to the Spanish side. The talks are expected to continue for several more days.



Conversation piece: Koko, the 12-year-old gorilla who cried when she learnt her pet cat had been killed by a car, is to be allowed to choose another one. She was told the good news by Ms Penny Patterson, director of the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, California (pictured above with Koko in 1976), who taught the gorilla sign language.

Swedes promised higher incomes, lower prices

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden's Socialist Government, which both of the main opinion polls say is likely to lose the general election in September, yesterday started a fight to improve its standing with voters by presenting a cautious, deflationary budget. At the same time it promised measures that would give wage-earners increased real incomes in 1985. The Finance Minister, Mr. Kjell-Olof Feldt, said that in their three years in power the

Socialists had cut the budget deficit from 13 to 7 per cent of GNP. Mr. Feldt estimated the deficit for 1985-86 at 63.5 billion kronor (£6 billion). The Government's economic strategy had been a success, he said. Sweden is one of the few countries which in recent years has succeeded in reducing both unemployment and inflation. Mr. Feldt said care had been taken to preserve Sweden's welfare state. The Government would follow determinedly the restrictive

politics that gave Sweden an inflation rate of 7.5 per cent last year, Mr. Feldt said. He forecast "favourable development" for the Swedish economy in 1985, saying he expected it to achieve a growth rate of 2 per cent. ● ROYAL REPRIEVE: King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, threatened with having his phone cut off, was saved yesterday from such ignominy by the ruling party, which was formerly committed by a clause

in its constitution to abolition of the monarchy. The Royal Family has always enjoyed the privilege of a free telephone, but this year Televerket, the Swedish telecommunications administration, decided that it would be cut off, and the King would have to pay. In the 1985 budget, however, it was announced that the royal allowance was being increased by 2.3 million kronor to 31.5 million kronor, and part of the increase was to meet telephone bills.

Charity hit may help end rule of Singapore 'pirates'

From Stephen Taylor, Singapore

An international outcry over what amounts to the hijacking of aid to Ethiopian famine victims may ironically rebound to the benefit of others who have suffered at the hands of Singapore's notorious entertainment pirates.

The illegal sale of the pop hit *Do They Know It's Christmas?* recorded by a group calling themselves Bandaid to raise disaster relief, is only the very tip of an industry which is among the island's most profitable, if least reputable. But it came at an opportune time for those waging a campaign to drive the pirates out of business, or at least underground.

In the High Court today an organization representing America's 10 main film companies will seek an injunction against five local video distributors of pirated films.

It is the first action of its kind and reflects local indignation at the Government's failure to revise archaic copyright legislation despite international pressure.

The Imperial Copyright Act of 1911, which was designed for the published word, is still the only law covering an array of technologies subject to highly sophisticated piracy in Singapore, including film, video and computer software.

Mr. Stephen Taylor, of the Motion Picture Export Association of America, which is bringing the action, says: "We have had promises that the law will be revised for the past four years. We have waited long enough and now are going to test the existing legislation."

Last year audio pirates, which have been exploiting legal loopholes since the late 1960s, exported an estimated \$9 million recorded cassette tapes, mainly to the Middle East, and an unknown but increasing number of video cassettes went to the Pacific region.

Other piracy victims are also fed up. A recent action brought by the British Book Publishers Association under the 1911 Act could have far wider implications. The defence argued that works not published in Singapore are not covered by the Act. Judgement is still pending, but if this interpretation is accepted it would be a major setback to other litigants.

A number of legal sources believe the Bandaid incident, which has embarrassed and angered a highly image-conscious Administration, has added urgency to the issue. One predicts a new Act will be passed before Parliament by April.

The latest market for the pirates is computers. Virtually any software commercially available can be bought over the counter from pirate outlets. And the "implications" for Singapore are far more serious than illegal sales of records and films.

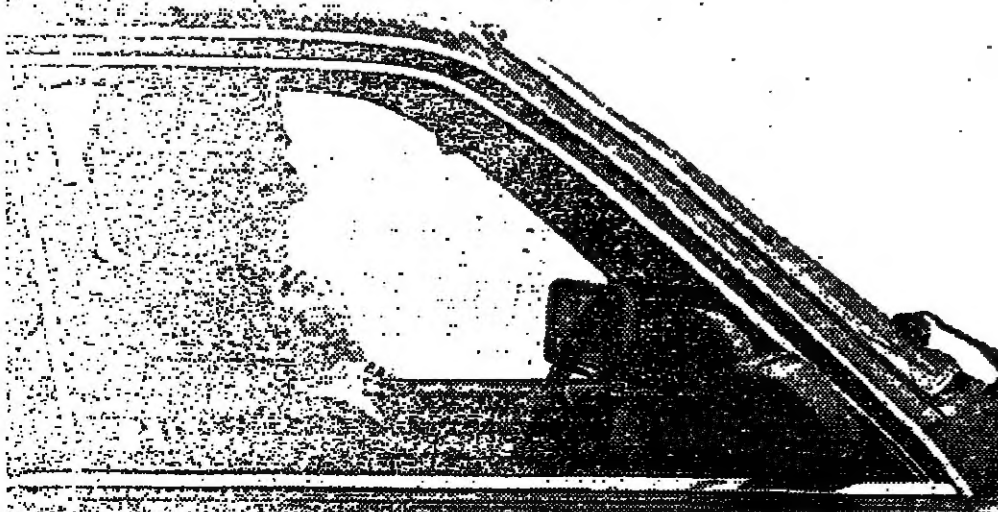
The Administration believes that the island should become a regional data centre, a sort of computer bank for South East Asia. Business sources say that growth in this area has been restricted because of the legal loopholes.

"It's no longer an issue of morality but self-interest," says an American businessman.

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British TELECOM

Seoul anger at pullout by North

From David Watts, Tokyo

South Korea has reacted sharply to the North's cancellation of forthcoming meetings and declined Pyongyang's offer to meet at deputy prime minister level.

The South Korean Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Shin Byong Hyun, said he was "surprised and disappointed" at the North's decision and accused President Kim Il Sung's regime of adopting "a totally unreasonable position which we cannot help but suspect has an ulterior motive".

The meetings, set for January 17 and 23, were to have discussed economic exchanges and the possibility of renewing full-scale contacts between the two countries' Red Cross Societies. The North's pretext was that US-Korean military exercises, codenamed Team Spirit '85 and beginning next month, were a threat to peace.

Mr. Shin told his northern counterpart by telephone: "If your side truly intends to conduct sincerely a dialogue, you should at least abide faithfully by agreements already reached between the two sides. If your side continues to break promises, as it has this time, and refuses to hold talks on agreed dates but still proposes a new, different kind of conference, who would believe that your side is sincere in such a proposal?"

A Red Cross official was equally blunt: He said the North had displayed "insincere and cold-hearted political trickery."

Vietnamese execute 3 for spying

Hanoi (AFP) - Three men convicted of treason and espionage last month in Vietnam's biggest spy trial have been executed in Ho Chi Minh City, despite an appeal for clemency by the French Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius.

Last week Vietnam commuted to life imprisonment the death sentences of two other men convicted on the same charges, including one recognized by Paris as a French national.

The Saigon daily, *Giai Phong*, reported that Tran Van Ba, Le Quoc Quan, and Ho Thai Bach were executed on Tuesday.

The report did not say how the men died, but executions are normally by firing squad.

The two whose death sentences were commuted are Mai Van Hanh, a pilot with Royal Moroccan Airlines, who is recognized by Paris as a French national, and Huynh Vinh Sanh.

They were spared after M. Fabius asked the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr. Phanom Van Dong, to show clemency to all five, who were convicted of trying to topple the Government in a plot instigated by China and backed by Thailand.

Relatives in France of Mr. Ba, former head of a pro-US Vietnamese students' association in Paris, said that he was also a French national, but Paris was unable to determine his status.

The authorities here insisted that all the defendants were Vietnamese.

Japan's secret war in China

Hirohito's uncle endorsed chemical weapons use

From Our Own Correspondent, Tokyo

Recently-discovered documents show that Japanese forces made extensive use of chemical weapons in the war against China and that their use was authorized by a member of the Royal Family.

There are two principal reports and an appendix which deal with the use of the chemical weapons and report on their effectiveness. The appendix contains detailed combat reports of the engagements in which they were used.

It was known that experiments involving chemical weapons were conducted on Chinese during the war, but not that these weapons had been used in action.

The documents are endorsed by Prince Naruhito Higashikuni, an uncle of Emperor Hirohito, who was then commander of the Second Army in China. Prince Higashikuni headed the Japanese Cabinet in 1945 immediately after the end of the Second World War.

The documents show not only that use of the chemical weapons was far more widespread than had previously been supposed and that the Japanese commanders, knowing that their orders were in violation of international law, ordered their men to cover up the weapons' use. They also reveal that locally based military men in China were at first sceptical about the effectiveness of the weapons but later became enthusiastic converts when they saw how dramatically they neutralized the tough Chinese.

That enthusiasm led on to comprehensive chemical warfare experiments in China. The first extensive use of chemical weapons in the Second World War involved some 375 different operations and the firing of about 41,000 rounds containing the chemicals in both canisters and shells.

It is clear that much more extensive use of gas weapons was made than was realized before," said Professor Yoshiaki Yoshimi, assistant professor of modern Japanese history at Chuo University, who discovered the material while checking through microfilm his college had bought from the United States Library of Congress.

The principal report entitled *Report of Chemical Warfare in the Wuhan Operation* covers the period August to October 1938 and was drawn up by the headquarters of the Second and Eleventh Armies in China and stamped "Military Secret". It is not clear, however, whether large numbers of troops were trained in the use of the weapons or whether they were the province of specially trained men. The technique appears to have been to wait until the Chinese were incapable and then bayonet them. Up to 300 were killed in each engagement according to the reports but it is impossible to calculate an overall total.

The instructions to the troops using the chemical weapons say: "Take the chance to attack when the gas is effective and never leave any proof."

THE ARTS

Cinema

A well-intentioned battering

Finders Keepers (15)

Plaza

Repo Man (18)

Chelsea Cinema; Camden
Plaza; Electric Screen;
Classic Oxford Street

The Terminator (18)

Leicester Square Theatre

Improper Conduct

ICA

Les Chiens (15)

Minema

"It happens sometimes - busy people just explode - natural causes", a secret service agent brusquely remarks in *Repo Man*, in which various characters are reduced to boots and steam after one second's exposure to the contents of a Chevrolet's trunk. But this is a week crammed with exploding people and every variety of crazy violence. *Repo Man* offers a tangled, foul-mouthed skein of tongue-in-cheek thrills set among the punks, UFO freaks and car repossessioners of downtown Los Angeles. In *The Terminator*, the same beleaguered city is visited from the future by a Cyborg - a creature half machine, half man and wholly nasty, who leaves a trail of perforated bodies, bashed heads and smashed cars. Richard Lester's *Finders Keepers*, an idle potboiler of a comedy, affords no respite either: people cannot make a move without tripping over roller-skates, gravestones or, most frequently, each other. Ah, me, whatever happened to daintiness?

Of the three, *Finders Keepers* deserves kind consideration for at least welding the battering ram with cheerful, friendly intentions. The story is set in 1973, though not from any fervent desire to reopen the

wounds of Watergate and Vietnam; the film simply took 10 years to get made. One can see why no one felt any special urgency in funding the project: the story about train-travelling bamboozlers, con men and failures chasing each other's tail (and a coffin packed with stolen dollars) constantly suggests warmed-up leftovers from far tastier films. But the plot's comic counterpoint and the single of bizarre, obsessive characters provide Lester with useful material for flexing his muscles and screwing the screen with brisk visual gags. A piece of wood, for instance, hurled at the hero from a half-demolished house being towed to a new location, curls through the window of a dentist's office, causing an embarrassing accident with the drill. In truth, the joke is not terribly good, but its extravagance and cheek are breathtaking.

With a film couched in such a pell-mell style, the actors can seem hardly distinguishable from the pieces of wood, the roller-skates and other comic props. Lester's cast, notably low on stellar power, play for broad effect rather than individuality, though Michael O'Keefe's imperious, slightly cockeyed face serves him well as the idle young man in a pawn shop's army uniform running from one bout of trouble to another. The film's most charming performance, however, comes from the veteran David Wayne, cast as the oldest railway conductor in American history, with an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes to entertain his frantic passengers.

Finders Keepers is old-fashioned farical cinema - highly derivative, but neat and tidy. *Repo Man*, a first feature written and directed by Alex Cox, a Liverpudlian at large in Los Angeles, is equally derivative, but proclaims the new gospel of jagged edges, raw and rude energy and cul-de-sac craziness. Where Lester's characters chase their tails for the traditional wads of stolen dollars, Cox's crowd battle for supremacy of a lethal Chevrolet car manned by a lobotomized nuclear scientist. Twenty-eight exiled Cubans persuasively recall the years of harassment and imprisonment under a regime so dedicated to *machismo* that loud shirts, long hair and a lingering

glee of a deranged sniper who never minds where the bullets fall.

At the plot's precarious centre lies Otto, a young drifter agreeably played by Emilio Estevez, who finds exciting employment repossessing cars for the Helping Hands Acceptance Company. "The ordinary person avoids anise situations," a world-weary Harry Dean Stanton tells his young protégé: "Repo Man spends his life getting into tense situations." The situations are certainly extraordinary, especially as photographed by Wim Wenders's colleague Robby Muller, who subsequently went on to photograph Los Angeles for *Paris, Texas*. The film's own tension, however, is spasmodic; Cox might be a heady-eyed new talent with a welcome gift for black humour, but he currently lacks the skill in timing and construction to keep his cinematic fireworks burning throughout an entire feature.

The *Terminator*, starring the well-equipped Arnold Schwarzenegger, proceeds along more familiar lines. Schwarzenegger, the Cyborg sent from the future on a complicated and deadly mission, keeps his words to a minimum, preferring to communicate by driving a car into a police station, decimating a night-club and other tricks. "You've got a serious attitude problem," remarks a burly man after being yanked from his phone booth. The film's own attitude is partly comic: the writer-director James Cameron (an alumnus of Roger Corman's New World company) refines the plot's absurd details, and even finds amusing things for Paul Winfield's police lieutenant to do with cigarettes, cups of coffee and spectacles. But no amount of flip humour can compensate for the film's mindless crudity.

Characters from *Repo Man* and *The Terminator* would be given short shrift in Castro's Cuba - the subject of *Improper Conduct*, a documentary by the exiled Cuban film-maker Orlando Jimenez Leal and the cameraman Nestor Almendros (best known for his work with Rohmer and Truffaut). Twenty-eight exiled Cubans persuasively recall the years of harassment and imprisonment under a regime so dedicated to *machismo* that loud shirts, long hair and a lingering



Running from one bout of trouble to another:
Michael O'Keefe in *Finders Keepers*

handshake were deemed sufficient evidence of homosexuality. As a human document the film is important and frequently compelling a motley line-up of writers, transvestites, doctors, painters and Susan Sontag tell grim, and grotesquely farical, stories of labour camp life and the psychology of state repression. As a cinema document, however, the film is somewhat indigestible; we need more than a few interspersed archive clips to relieve the succession of talking heads, talking in Spanish with subtitles.

Les Chiens, made in 1978, is a disappointingly tame film from Alain Jessua, director of one of the cinema's most piercing studies in encroaching madness, *La Vie à l'envers*. Recently Jessua has specialized in playfully kinky fantasies. *Les Chiens* only offers a morose, restricted tale of a soulless community dogged by rapists, delinquents and, of course, dogs (deliberately kept in lighting trim by Gérard Depardieu, oddly equipped with moustache and cravat).

Geoff Brown

Television

Sentimental gloom

Forty Minutes (BBC2) looked back at the "promised land" of 1945, when this country seemed about to create what was described as a "new social order"; it is another question, however, whether this documentary's tone of nostalgia and lugubrious retrospection was really appropriate. There was no doubt an atmosphere of optimism in the immediate postwar era, but it was by no means universal and it would be wrong to imagine that the last 40 years have been a period of unanticipated and unjust delinquency. There were a great many people who saw precisely what would happen after the war and the triumph of the Labour Government.

And you only had to watch the contemporary films which were once again shown last night to see that the mood of "progress" was based upon a very uncertain foundation. "If we feel strongly enough, we can get what we want" was the stirring cry, but one which suggests only that popular euphoria after winning the war inspired a false number of clichés. It was not of course solely a matter of cliché - the welfare state, with all that entails, was partly the product of the era. But one of the

unconscious ironies revealed in last night's programme seemed to be that the prolonged existence of that welfare state has vitiated those characteristics of national effort ("With our hearts in our work, so that we get more and yet more production", as one commentator put it) and national community upon which it was originally established.

This documentary did not properly discuss such matters, but instead took refuge in a number of banal contrasts between the words of 1945 and the deeds of 1985, these in turn acted as catalyst for some simplistic observations of contemporary Britain. It was difficult to see the point of the exercise, unless it was either to demonstrate that human beings will always complain about the society they happen to live in (rather than the one they think they remember) or to suggest that the humanitarian clichés of the recent past were bound to break against the ineluctable realities of the actual nation. It was a gloomy programme, but its air of pathos was tactituous where it was not entirely sentimental.

Peter Ackroyd

Theatre

In the Penal Colony

ICA

Many a would-be adapter must have cast hungry looks at Kafka's story and given up the attempt when it came to portraying the central character: a fiendishly ingenious execution machine which inscribes the court's sentence first on the victim's flesh and then down to the bone.

This technological horror is also beyond the range of Pip Simmons and the Amsterdam Micky Theatre, but their production does offer an impressive alternative in the shape of an electric crossbow (based on the Roman ballista), its ominous ratchet wheels whirring and steel cable straining back into the firing position behind a metal bullet the size of a brick. Arriving spectators are invited to inspect the machine while undergoing interrogation by a girl in a boiler suit on the kind of questions you would expect at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. Someone passes an admiring comment on the "program space" between the weapon and the target: whereupon a brawl breaks out between the designer and a lady performance artist. Meanwhile the rest of us are drumming our feet, wanting the contraption to go off; which it then does, with gratifyingly spectacular effect, shattering a large pane of plate glass.

This occupies only some 10 minutes of an (otherwise seated) 90-minute show; but it is typical of what follows in raising more issues than it has the power to deal with. The clear fateful image of that killing machine is already being befogged in arguments on the relationship between danger and beauty, the lethal potentialities of art and the status of execution as a public entertainment.

The promenade prologue at

least establishes one useful link with the equally unforced adaptation of Kafka that follows it. Kafka's little officer steps forward, a mild, nervous figure brimming with tactical enthusiasm (extremely well played by Trevor Stuart), to describe the wonders of his machine to an audience whose complexity has already been tested, and whom he has some right to address as fellow enthusiasts. Otherwise, the key events in the story are swamped under added scenes and characters, and debates on power and punishment, all played under television lights and relayed on monitor screens together with pre-recorded material.

The piece is described as an example of the Micky's "Theatre Beyond Television" policy; and one can see that, even for a less radical director than Mr Simmons, there would be small point in presenting a straightforward adaptation of *The Penal Colony*. It is a prophetic work, long overtaken by the atrocities of the death camps and subsequently refined inhumanities. My objection to this post-holocaust version is that it misses the chance of making clear points on the nightmares of the 1980s while also mangling Kafka's fable.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Capriccio

Royal, Glasgow

Exactly as he did at Glyndebourne 12 years ago, John Cox has situated *Capriccio* for Scottish Opera in the 1920s, and very becoming it looks in the setting by Jack Norman. We are in the Countess's gracious morning room, discreetly seasoned with examples of modern art: she is clearly a patroness not only of Olivier and Flaubert but also of Rouault and Brancusi. The costumes too have an authentic period feel, besides contributing to a harmony of brown, oyster and gold which is rudely, and very appropriately, disturbed by the tanginess of the Italian soprano and the line of Clairon.

It is a fetching stage picture, but inevitably there is some feeling of déjà vu when these people out of Somerset Maugham begin disputing the merits of Gluck. No production, however, could bring consistency to an opera which is stranded between ages as it is between words and music: the text is anachronistic in assuming that Lully and Couperin would still have been talking-points in the 1770s, and the music is, of course, gloriously anachronistic in that it lingers within the eternal 1900 where Strauss spent the last four decades of his composing life.

Dressing the opera in mixed periods might answer to its weave of times, but the solution adopted by Mr Cox and Mr Norman is safer as well as perhaps more elegant. It also provides Mr Cox with a milieu in which he can move smoothly

between the natural and the artificial, between the very necessary worlds here of opera as life and opera as opera. When two or three people are in conversation the style is intimate and naturalistic, but then in the larger ensembles the strings begin to tauten and the characters to behave as figures in a pattern.

This needs subtle acting, which this excellent cast provides. At the head is Margaret Marshall, who offers a Countess deliciously pleased with herself and with life, though her vivacity bubbles only at the top of a poised dignity. There is never much sign that she has thrown her head away except to her music, which she sings with a superbly fine-threaded line and radiant tone. She could afford to move less in the finale.

Of the rival suitors, Alan Oke is a satiric poet and Ian Caley a composer of insecurely controlled enthusiasm. There is a strong La Roche from Stafford Dean, taking command whenever he sings, and a robust, no-nonsense Count, Ian Caddy. Anne Howells enjoys herself as Clairon but by no means omits to sing beautifully, and there are dancers and Italian singers (Francis Egerton and Maria Moff) prepared to present themselves as caricatures.

The only serious lack is of finesse and sumptuousness in the orchestra. Norman Del Mar, who conducts, is of course an expert Straussian, but too often one hears the orchestra trying for something they do not achieve. The prelude was not at all auspicious.

Paul Griffiths



Margaret Marshall: a Countess deliciously pleased with herself

Stockhausen

Barbican/Radio 3

You cannot form a relationship with a pair of loudspeakers. Boulez used to say, in objecting to concert-hall performances of electronic music. But you can. The first half of Wednesday night's instalment in the BBC's Stockhausen festival, listened to with total concentration in the Barbican Hall, showed quite how powerful the experience can be. *Gesang der Jünglinge* remains one of the greatest leaps forward in the history of music - from Stockhausen's stuttering, highly-determined first studies in pure electronic sound manipulation (with which the concert opened) to a blazing, bleak world of swirling noises and traumatic eruptions, infused with the breath of humanity by a single boy's voice, endlessly modified and manipulated.

Stockhausen (who introduced all the works in the concert with winning charm) threw away the

Music and Machines

observation that he had planned this work with different determined degrees of intelligibility in the boy's voice-part; and that cbl and flow of intelligibility suddenly provided a perfect frame of reference for listening to the piece, as cogent as the rise and fall of harmonic tension in a sonata-form movement or the balance of subject and episode in a fugue.

The first studies, now sounding faded in tapes which the composer admitted were like old films "in which it's raining all the time", were monochrome by comparison. But it was good to have the rare chance of hearing both early pieces, if only to demonstrate not only the jump forward to *Gesang* but the quantum leap to *Kontakte*, which filled the second half.

For here the human element is on stage, performing, and perceptible by the audience as a different phenomenon from the taped sound. The performers have little freedom, for the tape binds them tightly around. The sheer pleasure of seeing the perfect synchronizing of sound and gesture between the pianist Ingo Metzmacher, the percussionist Andreas Boettger and

the tape was part of what makes *Kontakte* one of the most absorbing and compelling experiences in postwar music.

Odd that this should be the only piece in the concert whose performance one could actually criticize: visually it was gripping, with the two players on opposite sides of the stage but with two central gongs highlighting some important moments in the structure. There is what always seems a moment of horrifying finality, a giant gurgling and silence, about a quarter of an hour before the end; the moment seven minutes later where both players advance to the centre and play the gongs was here equally crucial.

In previous live performances I seem to remember the piano as more dominating, less recessive than here, though Metzmacher's playing always seemed completely assured. But the sense of theatre in this account was unbeatable, maintained with intense concentration from both players. At the end, Stockhausen offered us the *Gesang der Jünglinge* again and most of the very large audience stayed.

Nicholas Kenyon

Young Artists' concerts

Park Lane Group

Purcell Room

Quite apart from all the new and nearly new music, it was refreshing, in Wednesday night's Park Lane Group Young Artists' concert, to hear Geraldine Wells perform Szymanowski's opulent song-cycle *Der Hals Liebeslieder* so beautifully. Miss Wells's voice, as yet, has a restricted range of colours and she sings rather lightly, but behind those temporary limitations lies abundant promise. One only hopes that she continues to explore such neglected repertoire from the past.

From more recent times, she chose Tippett's *The Heart's Assurance* and a new work by Patrick Gowers. In the Tippett, an initial stiffness in her expression soon gave way to a poignancy which aptly reached its most concentrated, tragic expression in the final song, "Remember your lovers", while Gowers's *The Dying Spark of Hope*, settings of two extracts from Matthew Arnold's *The Scholar-Gypsy*, was delivered with a melancholic intensity that fully matched the directness of the work's simple yet hypnotic language. The pianist, Martin Parry, was superbly responsive.

Stephen Pettitt

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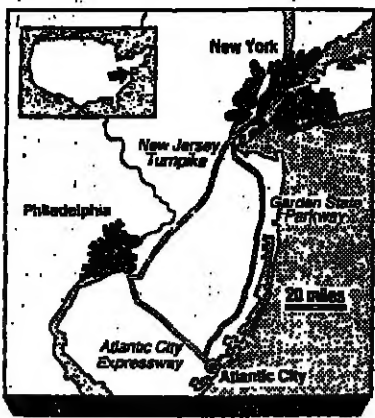
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VOLVO

The dice are loaded against Atlantic City

America's East Coast casino capital was developed into a gaming centre to rival Las Vegas. But, as David Spanier reports, the gamble seems to be failing



Atlantic City, America's East Coast gambling capital, used to be a thriving health spa boasting a carnival atmosphere the length of its famous boardwalk — a 20-yard wide, five-mile long promenade running between its casino skyscrapers and the beach. But her attractions faded. Amusement arcades lost their pull. Piers stood dolefully empty.

A campaign to revitalize the city by introducing casino gambling developed into a bitter battle between local interests, who saw a crock of gold at the end of the boardwalk, and religious and other community groups who thought their city would become a latter-day Sodom, riddled with organized crime and corruption.

The first casino was opened in 1978 after temporary licensing approval had been rushed through the New Jersey legislature in one day. Now the city, within easy reach of the main industrial and population centres of the eastern United States, has ten casinos to tempt the day-tripper. But it has never lived up to its promise to rival America's ace gaming centre of Las Vegas.

Now people, particularly in the leisure industry, are asking: Is Atlantic City on the skids? As the projections for the new year whizz through the casino managements' computers, the rewards of gambling by the sea look distinctly less alluring than before.

The high rollers are mainly to be seen coming up the beach, rather than at the tables. The buses are packed with senior citizens, eking out a few dollars on the refund of their day-trip tickets from New York or Philadelphia. Atlantic City itself is still no more than an extended waste land, strung around a

monstrous traffic jam. As a resort it could be called Sleaford-sur-Mer.

To be sure, an annual "win" (money bet after payouts, before expenses) of 1.7 billion dollars plus 36,000 new jobs, can't be all bad. But what worries the gaming industry most, and in a different way, of course, the local community, is where Atlantic City is heading. The answer, unless something is done about it soon, is down.

Gaming was introduced to Atlantic City from contradictory motives. On one side pressure from monied interests — legitimate or otherwise, who can say? — to open up a casino centre on the East Coast to rival Las Vegas. And on the other, a desire to revamp and relaunch a crumbling backwater into a bay city. The former would pay for the latter; the latter would justify the former — a double jackpot!

The impression gained at the recent National Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking, held in Atlantic City, is that in practice things have not at all worked out like that in practice. One consequence is that many of the other state legislatures which were thinking of introducing casino gaming as a way of raising revenue, are having second thoughts.

It would be surprising in the present climate, if any other city introduces gambling in the next year or two, though in a place like New Orleans it is always on the cards. Such a rival attraction would naturally divert business from Atlantic City, and Las Vegas too.

Instead, states have caught another bug — lotteries. More than a score of places now hold a weekly lottery which, because the prizes are so high, attract a lot of popular attention. In New York, for instance, in the weeks before Christmas, the lottery prize rose to the staggering sum of 20 million

dollars. Small players who might spend 15 dollars on a day trip to Atlantic City can get a bigger thrill buying a lottery ticket.

The overriding concern of the New Jersey authorities who set up gaming was to keep tabs on the constant zig-zag of organized crime under the surface. An elaborate screening process was set up — a 90-page personal dossier for registering employees in the casinos, for instance — with checks and safeguards for every aspect of the operation. Taking casinos as a business, it simply is not worth it, from the big investors' point of view, to let the wrong names get in.

But, as was well remarked at the gambling conference, where there's blood in the water, the sharks come in. It would be amazing, given the history of American gaming, if the mob was not in there. If the direction of the industry up-front is "squeaky clean", as is claimed, then the ancillary services are the rock pool. Construction, catering, gaming equipment, laundry and cleaning, even the labour unions, are liable to infiltration.

All such firms have to go through the regulatory hoops. "We're okay here", one of the New Jersey control board told me, "but did you know that in New York every single restaurant has to get its linen through the Mafia?"

So, given the strenuous efforts made to keep Atlantic City straight, what has gone wrong? The most dramatic image of the year in 1984 was a newspaper picture of the mayor in leg irons and handcuffs. Charged with taking bribes he chose to admit the offence and plea-bargained his way out of office. The incident was not seen as a little local difficulty; it typified the total failure of the Atlantic City administration to redevelop the city as a new resort and get things moving.

New jobs there are, but where is the housing, the schools, the hospitals, the back-up for a new community? There is nothing to show for the city's new wealth. Beyond the famous boardwalk Atlantic City is bereft of all facilities. It is not only empty, but ugly.

There is no way new people can settle in Atlantic City, even if they wanted to, unless they chose to camp out on the beach. And at night, one was warned, it would be just as well not to take a stroll along the boardwalk, anyway.



Casinos Yes!

The lesson of all this is that new money, whether it comes from casinos or anywhere else, is useless without a clear plan for development and effective leadership. Atlantic City has not taken off. On the contrary, unless a start is made immediately to build new roads and provide proper access to the place, it will be strangled in its own traffic jams. Speculators are sitting tight on little bits of real estate, and nothing is moving.

Leadership cannot be expected to come from the casinos. They have their own problems, one of which is an identity crisis. Most of them, heavily oriented toward slot machines as they are, do not have any personality. Can a casino ever be dull? Atlantic City, one must conclude, has gone a long way to achieving that feat (the Golden Nugget excepted, which is modelled on Las Vegas). Even Frank Sinatra, on whom the industry has leaned on so long for colour, has sworn never to return after a row at the tables.

But the casinos' basic problem is that their profits are not growing as

fast as they should by American standards. In the first nine months of 1984 the nine casinos in action (leaving aside one new operator) won 4 per cent less than in the same period of 1983. The smart money on Wall Street gave this performance a resounding thumbs-down.

A rise of 10 to 12 per cent would be regarded as healthy, but there seems little prospect of that, given that Atlantic City is a day-trip resort, and has simply not got the hotel rooms to become a holiday centre. As new casinos come on stream the total money bet will be spread still wider. Some places will close.

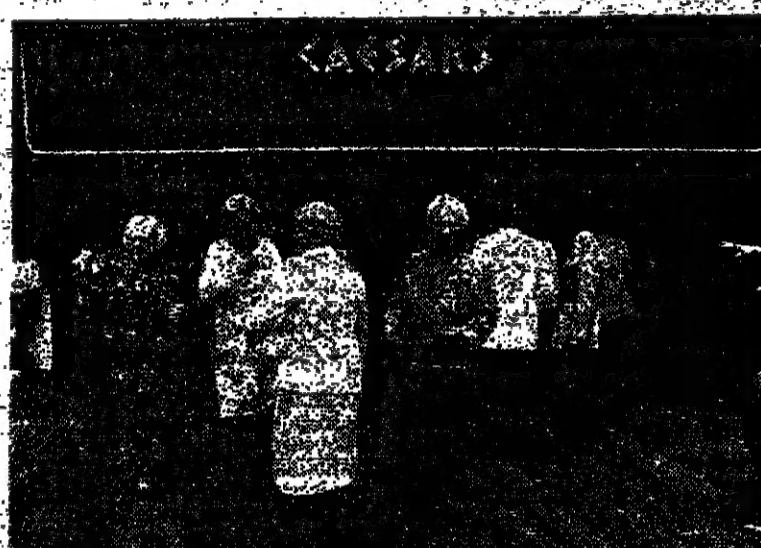
There is no suggestion that Atlantic City is going to topple over into the sea. The idea of drawing on a vast population centre remains valid. If you are stuck in New York with money to burn and an uncontrollable desire to play the slots, 50 dollars will last you about 18 minutes) then Atlantic City is the place to go. But the gap between promise and reality, as so often in gambling, is immense.



The boardwalk: Is there a crock of gold at the end of it?



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moreover... Miles Kington

Opposite Punch, where I used to go to work, or at least used to go, there was a large office building called Temple Chambers. I must have passed that building at least 600 times before it occurred to me that the name Temple Chambers was wasted on a set of offices. It was the ideal name for a fictional detective of the old school. He probably wore a waistcoat and a bow-tie, had insufficiently cleaned brogues and always solved his cases in a library in the last chapter. He played the violin on the side, like Holmes, but in the style of Stephane Grappelli.

Other signs have occasionally yielded good names for characters. Max Headroom is one I favour for an upbeat hero, though for a downbeat hero I would prefer Matt Finish. A Dutch hero with aristocratic overtones could only be Herz van Rental.

These names, though, have been hard to find over the years. Or at least they were till last year, when I was driving through the depths of the country dragging the double bass en route to some far-flung Instant Sunshine gig, and my companion cried out: "Look! It's a tough American lawyer!"

Now, my companion is a sharp-eyed girl, but to spot an American lawyer in the English countryside, in pitch blackness, and to spot that he is a tough one, stretched the credulity. Yet she was right. Because we were passing through a village called Upton Scudamore, and if Upton Scudamore is not a tough American lawyer, I will eat my collected Raymond Chandler.

Scudamore had hard eyes like diamonds, which he kept locked away behind bullet-proof spectacles. When his wife asked him if he had a good day at the office, he probably charged her for the information. You get the feeling that if Upton Scudamore had been around in the Book of Genesis and offered his services to Adam and Eve, God would have ended up being evicted from the Garden of Eden, though all things considered, Upton would probably have preferred to act for the serpent.

Yes, villages are the answer. What a wealth of fictional names they have: Horsley Woodhouse, Haselbury Plucknett, Eccle Riggs, Morley Smithy, Hinton St George and Bumble Moor — all lying around on Ordnance Survey maps, just waiting for a passing George H. Remy Regency novel. I like the

sound of Bashy Ruff, no doubt a moustachioed rascal with a heart of gold, good clean-living Christian Malford, affable lady-about-town Fenny Bridges and heart-stopping young beauty Honey Hill.

Don't imagine for a moment that all English village names make old-fashioned characters. There is a pair of villages near Shrewsbury called Wig Wags and Homer who can only be villages out of Damon Runyon and the same goes for Gusty Stubbs, Coole Pile and Thick Withins. Thick Withins, I swear to you, is on the Buxton map, as are also Gluton Grange, Bunper Castle, Butchersick Farm and Dirty Gutter.

There is a village in Kent called Womenswold. Is this some kind of rural WI? I'm just off to the Womenswold — your supper is in the fridge. And is it related to another kind of gathering further north, the Nine Ladies Stone Circle? Which early jazz band did Dix Bottom play with? Did Auton Dolwells change his name when he came from Hungary? Why is there a village in Dorset called Barkham Corner Lane? Is it related to one in Sussex called The Mens? And will Lydiard Millicent ever get engaged to the village next door, Cliffe Pypard?

This morning I was passing a lingerie shop and cried out, pointing at a label: "Look — it's an English village!" The label said "Cotton Gosssets". My companion led me away, but only as far as next door, where I saw another village, named Lloyds Nightsafe.

"It's all right dear", she said. "It's not a village name." She's right. Lloyds Nightsafe is obviously a wild flower.

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13 Rubber (6)			
14 Moves slowly (6)			
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16 Marine bivalve (6)			
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FRIDAY PAGE

Family with a literary life-style

Three generations of Fullers, poet Roy, son John and granddaughter Sophie, are creating a writing dynasty. Shirley Lowe reports

After the Pakenhams and Waughams come the Fullers, yet another stylish literary family. Roy Fuller, CBE, is 72, a poet and novelist. He has been a corporation lawyer all his working life. He is a former head of the legal department at the Woolwich Equitable Building Society, where he still sits on the board, and is now a governor of the BBC. A former chairman of the literary panel of the Arts Council, he resigned after a certain amount of "bargy and kerfuffle" over the handing out of public money to what he considered "dotty street theatre projects" and "Arts Council pensioners".

He was elected Professor of Poetry at Oxford in 1968, a position he held for five years, and in 1970 was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. The Queen, he says, is a sharp cookie who knows more about poetry and poets than he thinks. His son, John, 48, is also a poet and novelist. He remembers his father telling him the plot of a Kafka short story in his early teens.

Roy doesn't recall this, or any other bit of parental influence: "I wouldn't have cared one way or the other whether John wanted to write but I do think whether you like it or not, that you pass things down. Not that I lay claim to any brains. John is in many ways sharper and cleverer than I am. I do think brainpower is very hereditary in any sphere and I think I wished he'd do well in the educational



Novel family: John Fuller at home with daughter Sophie and below, Roy Fuller

'For a large number of young writers John Fuller is a guru'

machine, get the kind of education I never had." John went to St Paul's School and was winning sonnet competitions in *The Spectator* and getting poems published in literary magazines by the time he was 16. Last year his book, *Flying to Nowhere*, was a runner-up for the Booker prize, which produced all the usual satisfying side-effects like paperback sales and foreign editions, even a film offer from California.

"I've decided that I must treat it as a piece of property that's been sold and I really mustn't mind what they do with it," he says. He has been a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, for 18 years and James Fenton, one of his ex-pupils, once wrote: "For a large number of young writers, John Fuller has been the decisive influence - our secret guru."

John and his wife, who runs a resources centre for handicapped children, have three daughters. One is still at school, another is studying the violin at the Royal Academy of Music

and the eldest, Sophie, who is 23, has just published her first work - a lucid translation of *Islanders and The Fisher of Men* by the Russian writer Zamyatin, done in collaboration with Julian Sacchi, a fellow student at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies from which they both graduated in the summer. It appeared in Christmas book lists as the personal choice of Rachel Billington (from the Pakenham clan) and Martin Amis (of the Amis duo).

Sophie finds this response "amazing...marvellous", but says her work can't be compared with her father's or her grandfather's work, but she can remember coming across her father's first novel lying about the house, reading it and being very impressed.

She went to the highly academic Oxford High School where she was allowed to take up Russian instead of Biology at 16. Unlike some friends, who reacted against the hothouse intellectual atmosphere of Oxford in general and the school in particular, she went on to university. "It just seemed such an amazing idea that someone would pay me to do what I wanted to do and liked doing best, which was reading Russian books. My parents were marvellous: they didn't push but they were pleased when I succeeded."

Roy and John have always discussed their work together and, proof of a truly mature relationship, they act as critics of each other's final manuscripts.

The two of them are delighted with Sophie's critical success, pleased that she chose such an interesting subject. Zamyatin, a man after Roy Fuller's own heart, was a marine architect as well as a writer and *Islanders* was based on his observations of small boat life when he was working in the Newcastle dockyards in 1916.

They are both very hot on professionalism. Noting gloomily that the country is full of poets, rather than readers and buyers of poetry, "now that everyone is encouraged to write blank verse", Roy says it's because amateurs of all kinds are led to believe themselves professionals. "My maternal aunts and uncles were all painters and singers but they got on and did it in their spare time. They never thought the state owed them a living."

His son, recounting slightly on his once-published statement that form in literature is more important than feeling ("That makes me sound a bit of a cold fish..."), says: "It's no good simply having strong feelings. What you need, first and

foremost, is the technique to express those feelings."

This has been an exacting act to follow into print but Sophie has never felt them looking over her shoulder, so to speak, adjusting her standards. "I never felt I had to get it right for them," she says. "It had to be right for me, to satisfy me. I'm not that interested in success, either, or money. I don't want to own a house or a car or the luxuries which other generations found important. I'm really only interested in functional clothes, something comfortable to run for the bus in."

This sounds very much like third generation confidence. Roy, for instance, had none of it. He was born in Oldham at a time when A Good Job was the ultimate goal and Qualifications were what you needed to get there. His father died when he was eight, leaving his mother with just enough money to bring up his brother, and himself.

They moved to Blackpool. Roy went to a modest private school, left at 15, became a solicitor's clerk and qualified by the time he was 21. "It passed through my mind that I might be a journalist," he says, "but that would not have appealed to me: far too dangerous an occupation. The notion of going to university was totally remote from anything my mother knew about or I envisaged. I think she would have regarded that as three speculative years."

So Roy became a solicitor and got up at 6.30 to write poetry before he went to the office. He found the double life of literature and law rather convenient: "If you're writing to earn a living elsewhere you're not under that compulsion," he says.

Equally, his business experience came in handy when he became a BBC governor. "I had a vague idea that the governors



were watchdogs of public taste, but of course it's big business and there was a lot of complicated work concerning BBC property."

His poetry has always sold better than his novels. "There's no doubt I'm a highbrow, and

'They reflect the changing attitudes in the intelligentsia'

to earn a living you've got to have some sort of common touch," he says. "But, in spite of lack of popular success, I've been lucky when one contemplates my beginnings as provincial schoolboy without any educational qualifications." John Fuller emerged from Oxford in the sixties, the era of *Look Back in Anger*, a time that was anti-bourgeois, anti-materi-

alistic. "I was, I suppose, 'middle period man,'" he says. "We were still very conscious that we had to get on to the home-buying ladder - we bought our first house as young married graduates at Oxford - but many of my contemporaries were poets, novelists, playwrights, librarians, the academic life seemed both viable and attractive. I had a vague idea that I'd like to go into films but I couldn't see how to do it - didn't have the drive, I suppose."

Instead, he went to an American university as a lecturer and poet in residence and returned to become a don; a lyric poet and a writer of dazzling poetic prose. At the moment he's taking a year's sabbatical to work on a research project on W. H. Auden.

Although he admires his father's schizophrenic lifestyle, he says he doesn't think he'd have the energy left after business to write whereas he gets stimulation from teaching.

lecturing and his spare time enthusiasms.

And what about Sophie? At the moment she's on the dole, learning the cello and taking a teacher's diploma on the flute at the local adult education institute. "Qualifications tend to reassure parents..." which, she hopes, will subsidize further Russian translations. "It's all I really want to do."

She has a master plan to get a grant to do a Ph.D. so that she can return to Russia. She spent five months there recently, working six hours a day, six days a week at the Pushkin Institute.

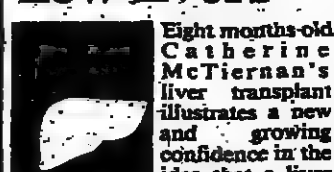
She shares a "short life" house in Brixton, which she and three student friends found through a housing association. Her aspirations are totally different to those of her grandfather and father. As long as she's doing something well enough to satisfy herself, she says, it doesn't have to be a money-earning job. "I think most of the people I know feel rather like this: it has a lot to do with the climate of the times, with the security of state aid plus insecurity at work. There's no such thing as a safe job anymore."

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Fuller family is the way they so exactly reflect the changing attitudes of the English intelligentsia over the last 50 or so years.

Zamyatin, *Islanders and The Fisher of Men*, translated by Sophie Fuller and Julian Sacchi, Salamander Press, £7.95. Next year, Secker & Warburg will be publishing John Fuller's *Selected Poems* and Roy Fuller's *Revised Collected Poems* and Salamander will be publishing *The Adventures of Speedfall*, John Fuller's new collection of short stories and a new collection of poems by Roy Fuller. Puffin will also be bringing out a selection of John Fuller's children's poetry.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

New lives, new livers



Eight months-old Catherine McTiernan's liver transplant illustrates a new and growing confidence in the idea that a liver swap can offer a second chance to a child with liver failure.

Until recently, transplant surgeons feared that high doses of steroid hormones needed to prevent rejection would stunt the child's normal growth. But the advent of a new non-steroidal drug, cyclosporin A, plus an increase in the availability of donor livers since BBC TV's *That's Life* focussed on the plight of Ben Hardwick, have made liver transplants for babies and children more feasible. As it turns out, this is the very age group where a liver transplant is most likely to succeed.

Britain's pioneering liver transplant programme is a joint effort between the liver unit at King's College Hospital, London, and surgeons at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, where Catherine went through her five-hour operation. The programme began in May 1968, and so far nearly 170 patients have received new livers.

In last week's *British Medical Journal* the doctors, including Prof Roy Calne who leads the Addenbrooke's team, described the "excellent" results recently obtained in the younger age group.

Of 10 patients under the age of 20 (the youngest just two years old) in the year to July 31, 1984, nine survived. The doctors predict that anyone under the age of 20 receiving a new liver has a 75 per cent chance of surviving a year - a lot better than the survival rate in the 35 to 58 age group at 28 per cent.

But older people who do survive can still do remarkably well. One patient who had liver cancer, is still alive nine years after his operation.

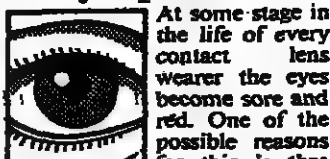
First course Sufferers of eating problems - either anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa - used to have no coordinated body to turn to for advice. But this week the National Information Centre for Anorexia Family Aid opened its doors for business. With a £75,000 DHSS grant, the Norwich-based centre hopes

to provide support for sufferers and their families all over the British Isles.

It grew out of a local self-help group established eight years ago. Now it will provide a library and build up a network of contacts so that anybody in need can be put in touch with sympathetic doctors or other people who could provide support. The organization's motto is: "You cannot do it alone, but you alone can do it."

The annual subscription is £5 and life membership is £25, but cannot afford to contribute. The National Information Centre for Anorexia Family Aid, Sackville Place, 44/8 Magdalen Street, Norwich NR3 1JE (0604) 21414.

An eye opener



At some stage in the life of every contact lens wearer the eyes become sore and red. One of the possible reasons for this is that not enough oxygen is reaching the surface of the eye - the cornea.

The problems are most serious for soft contact lens wearers because the lens covers such a large part of the eye. Hard contact lenses, only covering the iris, have two built-in safety mechanisms.

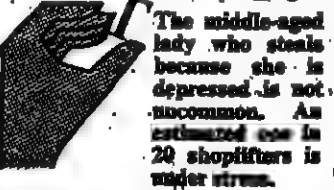
According to Dr Douglas Muir-Taylor, ophthalmologist in charge of contact lenses at the London Hospital, every time a hard contact lens wearer blinks, a tear is able to seep behind the lens, carrying oxygen with it. This natural tear pump continuously lubricates the eye and if any problems occur, keeping the lens in place becomes such agony, it has to be removed immediately.

By definition soft lenses are comfortable to wear and in some circumstances are used as a bandage to protect damaged eyes. But, by the same token, the wearer may not realize that his or her cornea is suffering from lack of oxygen.

Eventually the eyes may become very red and sore. In extreme cases the blood vessel network extends from the side of the eye, to provide the oxygen failing to reach the cornea by the normal route, which can irrevocably damage the sight.

Dr Muir-Taylor recommends anyone wanting to wear soft lenses to ensure that they buy some with a high oxygen transmitting (Dk) value - which helps the eyes breathe - and high water content. They should go to a reputable outlet and make sure they will have good follow-up care.

herapy through theft



The middle-aged lady who steals because she is depressed is not uncommon. An estimated one in 20 shoplifters is under stress.

In the *British Journal of Psychiatry* Dr Jeremy Eades, senior lecturer in forensic medicine at the Maudsley Hospital, London, suggests that this shoplifting is part of a symptom-relief mechanism, and there is probably a biochemical explanation. Binge eating and

self-mutilation have also been shown to relieve tension for some, and there is evidence that is controlled by brain chemicals.

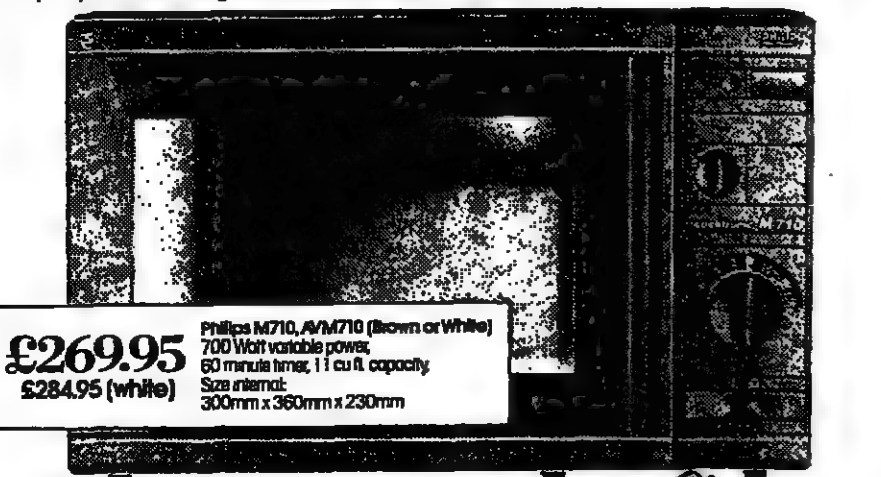
Dr Eades tells of a 54-year-old woman trying to wean herself off the tranquillizer, Diazepam. She suffered withdrawal symptoms but on three occasions found an alternative. She found relief, even to the point of light-headedness, by slipping items off the shelves into her bag.

Lorraine Fraser and Olivia Timbs

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Could this be a catch 22 winter?

Four of the five coldest winters in central England in the last 90 years have fallen in a remarkably regular sequence. The winter of 1895, 1917, 1940 and 1963 are all separated by either 22 or 23 years, with 1947 being the odd man out.

If the current cold spell continues long enough to join the select band and make the fifth in the sequence, it will raise intriguing questions about a cycle. This is of particular interest as 22 years is the period of the double sunspot cycle.

But if 1985 is to match past great winters, it has a long way to go. The great frost of January and February 1895 marked the last of the severe winters in the late 19th century. At its height the ice on Windermere was nine inches thick, and thousands travelled on special railway excursions to skate, ride on an ice patch or travel by horse sleigh on the lake.

The winter of 1917 was better known for its length with December, January and February all being cold. This intermittent bitter weather then continued with heavy snowfalls and severe frosts until April.

The winter of 1940, which featured an extraordinary snowy January and a cold February, was the first of three bitter winters. A measure of its intensity is that there was no National Hunt racing from December 27 1939 to February 21, 1940.

All these seasons were far outstripped by 1963, which was the coldest winter in southern England since 1748. In many inland areas snow lay from Boxing Day until early March, and people crossed the Thames on the ice at Hampton Court.

Though the apparent regularity of these cold winters is superficially attractive, such cycles behave in an alarming manner. They come and go like the Cheshire Cat. For instance, the winter series cannot be found in the records for the 200 years or so before 1895.

This is a familiar problem that has afflicted meteorologists searching for cycles ever since Theophrastus, a pupil of Aristotle, observed that the "ends and beginnings of the lunar months are apt to be stormy". The link, with sunspots has exercised a particular fascination with more than a thousand papers having been published since the Astronomer Royal William Herschel first raised the subject in the early 19th century.

But, for the most part, the detected cycles do not stand up to statistical analysis. What they provide is a tantalizing glimpse of how patterns of global weather can change.

W. J. Burroughs

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THE TIMES DIARY

Ilk-ly Moore

At the Tory party conference Leon Brittan named South Yorkshire as a left-wing authority that undermined police operations. Now George Moore, chairman of South Yorkshire police authority, has hit back in a most distasteful manner. In this week's *New Society* he is quoted as saying: "I don't know how to describe him but if I did I might be accused of being a racist. There are too many of his ilk in Parliament." Ilk? "It's worth looking into, that, even though there are quite a few of them who are Labour. That Shadow Home Secretary for another." Peter Johnson, the Durham police inspector who last May referred to "nig-nogs", resigned for as much. Will Moore? I don't know. Yesterday he was incommunicado at a conference on police accountability - to be addressed today by "that" Gerald Kaufman.

The good book

Dissident Tory MP Julian Critchley is about to start work on a biography of Michael Heseltine, a chum from Shrewsbury and Oxford days and best man at his wedding. Commissioned by Deutsch, the work will appear around the time of the next election, "when the party will be looking for a new leader," he says. Will the book be a biography? Will his nickname Tarzan be mentioned, for example? "I should expect so," replies Critchley. "Mind you, at Oxford Michael was known as God."

Inking

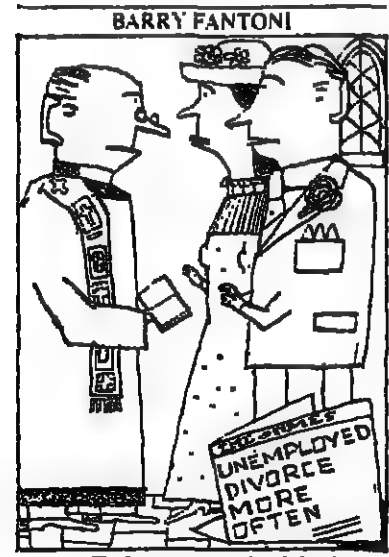
The Imperial War Museum is in no rush to display one of its latest acquisitions - a pen supposedly used to sign France's surrender to Germany in 1940. The museum bought it at Phillips for just £200 amid much giggling from informed collectors, who noticed that the backing material on the presentation box looked suspiciously modern. Museum director Alan Borg, who admitted yesterday they had taken a risk, said closer study has revealed doubts about the seals - "a bit like those on the Hitler Diaries", he says. The museum is now searching for a forensic scientist to analyse the accompanying authentication certificate, apparently signed by Hitler's henchmen. Should the pen prove a dud, all will not be lost: Borg says it could be the genesis of a collection of forgeries. "We wouldn't mind being bequeathed the Hitler Diaries."

Entroned

Grandmother Jane Bennett from Cheshire has perhaps a stronger case for inclusion on the Newbury electoral roll than any of the other "peace" women who gave evidence to an electoral court this week. Apart from testifying that her war widow's pension is sent to her Volkswagen at Greenham's main gate, she also announced that in 1945 she had been elected Miss Newbury.

Outsize job

Not a tall story - but certainly a wide one. In September a size 18 Louis Feraud silk suit worth £425 was stolen from Selfridges and recovered. In November it and an identical suit again disappeared from Selfridges; once more the police recovered them. Last month they went back on display and now, believe it or not, they have disappeared a third time. The police are doubtless searching for two vast, female and very persistent shoplifters.

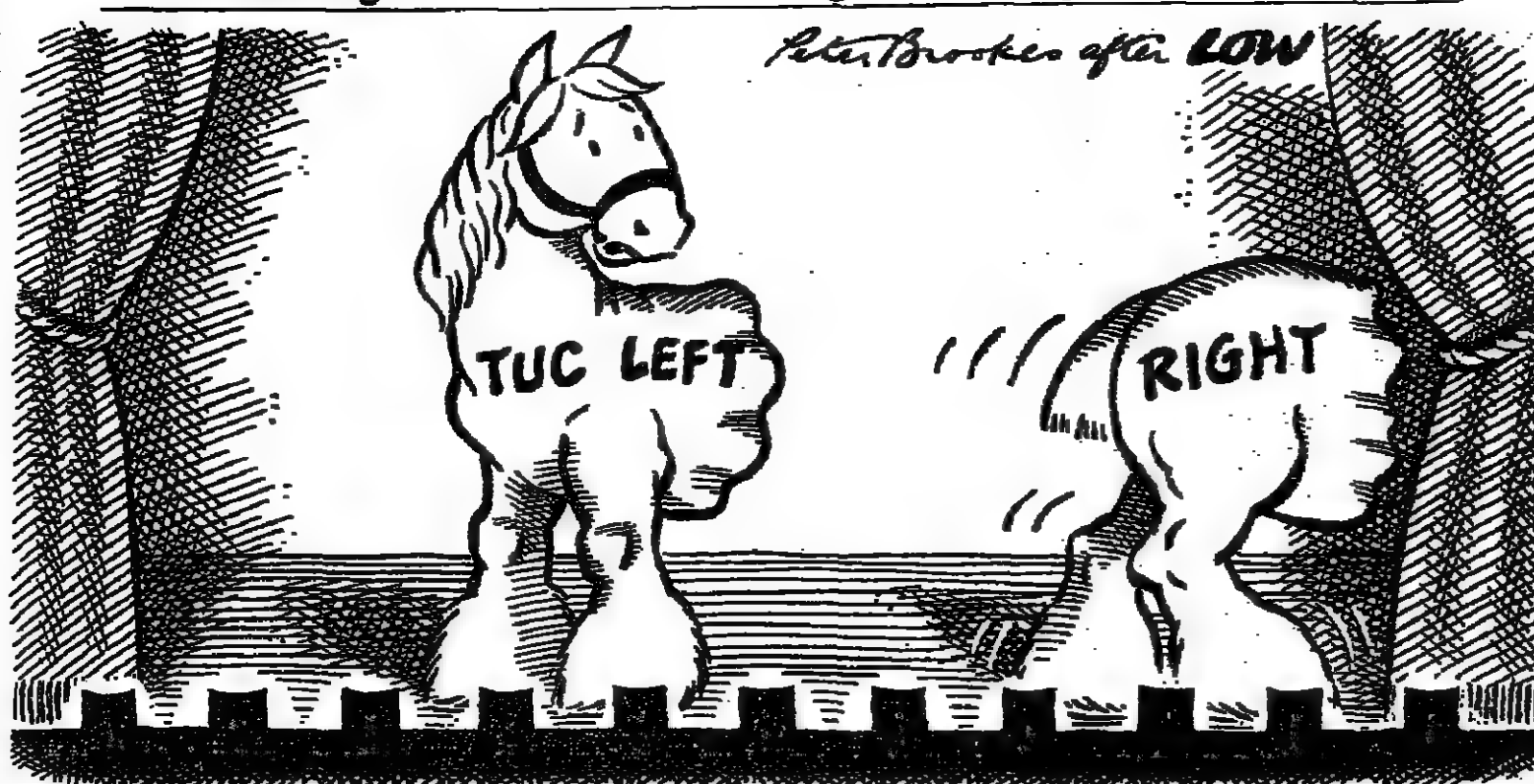


Rate of knots

It took the leaders of two left-wing London councils a mere five minutes to approve the spending of "a minimum of £330,000" of ratepayers' money on a campaign against ratecapping. According to minutes marked "Confidential - Not for publication" and sent to me in the proverbial plain brown envelope, the decision was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the Association of London Authorities at County Hall on November 29. A policy committee recommendation on the spending was the sole topic for discussion. Margaret Hodge of Islington and Ted Knight of Lambeth were the only councillors present and the meeting, which began at 10.45am, ended at 10.50am. Mrs Hodge (whose own council had contributed £50,000 to the campaign that morning) finds nothing amiss in this. The meeting, she tells me, merely gave a "final endorsement" to discussions and debates that had been taking place since June.

PHS

Paul Routledge looks at the crumbling of an anti-government strategy



Ballots: pulling the TUC apart

The last votes are cast today in a ballot that looks certain to compel a radical reappraisal of the TUC's policy of non-cooperation with the Government's labour law reforms.

Though they may not all appreciate it, the engineering workers who have voted decisively in favour of accepting state funds for secret ballots have knocked the prop of credibility from under the union movement's carefully constructed strategy to frustrate the Prior, Tebbit and King legislation. The whole opposition edifice may now collapse in ruins.

The TUC's eight-point policy programme has only two mandatory elements. One is the boycott of ballots on the closed shop; the other insists that "affiliated unions shall observe Congress policy and not seek or accept public funds for union ballots under the 1980 Employment Act fund scheme." This line has been confirmed by successive congresses since 1982, and though there has been some grumbling, nobody has broken ranks.

Until now, that is. The electricians' union EETPU has indicated that it intends to accept state aid to finance ballots before strikes and for the election of its national executive.

The million-strong Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers will do the same as soon as its members' decision is formally confirmed.

These developments put the TUC in a quandary. The left would like to discipline the errant electricians and

engineers by suspending them from TUC membership. That would at least stop the rot, it is argued, and perhaps make the rebels reconsider their position.

But any suspension must be taken by the 31-member TUC General Council, which is controlled by a centre-right coalition, many of whose ideas are closer to the dissidents' than they are to Congress policy. The hardliners would be unlikely to muster majority support.

The reasons are practical and political. The TUC would be seriously weakened without its second and seventh largest affiliates, representing 15 per cent of its members and its income. And a TUC in which the craft and manual unions are unrepresented would become lopsided to the left - and even less able to argue its standing as a representative partner in relations with government.

Unity is the highest form of political expression in the trade union movement, not just something to which lip service is paid. But in practice that unity generally turns out to be the lowest common denominator, the policy on which everybody can agree. It is often expressed in such permissive terms that affiliated unions can and do retain freedom of action.

For the most part, the Wembley strategy on labour law is such a policy. It permits unions to ignore the 1980 and 1982 Employment Acts and the 1984 Trade Union Act,

and offers help to deserving cases of defiance. As the National Graphical Association discovered in its long and ultimately futile battle with Mr Eddie Shah, that assistance does not extend to actual law-breaking on the part of the TUC itself. The miners have made a similar discovery. To that extent, the scope of the Wembley declaration made in the heady days when nobody actually used the laws has been redefined and narrowed in the harsh school of experience.

But there is more to the latest turn of events than a pragmatic bending to the wind of change. By openly flouting a key mandatory section of the Wembley strategy, the engineers have undermined the authority of the TUC itself and to have done so in the name of democracy has exposed the weakness of the TUC's present position. After the AUEW ballot, how can the proponents of non-cooperation with the labour laws claim to represent ordinary members?

Next week the TUC will begin a difficult exercise in limiting the damage. Even a temporarily successful suspension of the dissident unions would split the movement, down the middle and precipitate legal action by the electricians against the TUC.

There is a move, proposed most forcibly by David Bassett, leader of the General and Boilermakers Union, to hold a special conference

to discuss what to do. Such a conference is not required to confirm policy that was reaffirmed at Brighton only four months ago; logically, it would be required only if the policy is to be changed. In the current climate, change could mean only further dilution of the Wembley strategy so that unions could cooperate with the new laws if they wished.

TUC apparitions are therefore reluctant to go along with the Bassett proposal. Why, they ask, advertise the movement's weakness? If the policy has to be modified, let it be at the annual congress in September, after the individual union conferences.

The next step will be determined by the TUC's employment policy and organisation committee next Wednesday, and it may be relied upon to choose the lesser evil. The unions will have to live with their credibility problem. In fact, the TUC moderates may yet find powerful encouragement from the unions' failure to live up to the Wembley strategy. The "new realism" so evident after the general election, but so unfashionable at the last congress, is making a tentative comeback and could shape the direction of this year's Blackpool congress. Moves to modify the policy on labour law would be a boost for those favouring a more accommodating attitude towards Mrs Thatcher's administration.

Henry Stanhope on the British effort to woo Ethiopia's worried leader

When politics goes hand-in-hand with famine

Some 2,000 Soviet advisers have helped construct one of the more powerful armies in Africa, while between 3,000 and 4,000 Cuban troops are thought to remain from the 10,000 which helped Mengistu defeat the Somalis in the Ogaden. The Dergue, or ruling council, might well now wish to get rid of the Cubans altogether, because for ideological reasons they refuse to fight for Mengistu's cause against secessionists in the northern region of Eritrea, and meanwhile have to be paid for. But he remains extremely dependant on the Russians, who supply him with weapons and expertise.

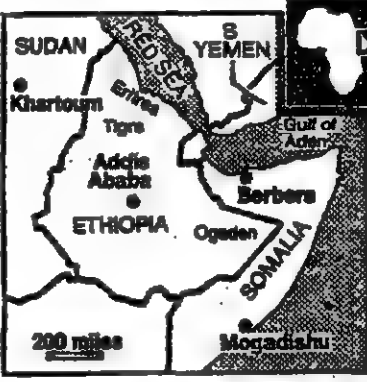
Mengistu's Marxist commitment is thought to be less than absolute. Britain is one country which over the last year has been moving slowly towards a better relationship with the Addis regime, after a long period of mutual suspicion and mistrust. The settlement of a long-standing claim against the Ethiopians by the cotton and trading group Mitchell Cotts - disposed of in the 1974 revolution - removed one obstacle to an Anglo-Ethiopian rapprochement. Annual amnesties granted by the Dergue to political

prisoners, including some of the deposed royal family, have also helped, although many remain behind bars.

Earlier this year Mr Malcolm Rifkind, junior minister at the Foreign Office, carried the process a little further by announcing during a visit to Addis Ababa that Britain was erasing a £2.5m debt owed by the Ethiopians. Then came worsening reports of the famine.

The Dergue is unlikely to cut its ties with Moscow, but the effects of the drought have created dependence on the West for emergency aid. Britain alone has contributed more than £11m during the past two months, a figure dwarfed by the American contribution. The Soviets have been forced to respond for political and humanitarian reasons.

The recent visit by Mengistu to Moscow and the grudging publicity which has been given by the Ethiopian press to western aid suggests a certain embarrassment over this position but this enforced reliance on western countries will almost certainly have to grow if the Dergue is serious about preventing a future famine of such dimensions. Memories of the fate of Haile



Selassie mean that Colonel Mengistu, for all the support he gets from the army, can hardly ignore the consequences of a reputation.

Meanwhile refugees from Eritrea and Tigre continue to pour into pro-western Sudan where President Numeiry, in conflict with rebels in the south and crippled by debt, has problems of his own.

Western governments are concerned that the fall of Numeiry to left-wing forces could create a "red ring" from Libya in the north-west to Ethiopia in the south-east, and over the Gulf of Aden to South Yemen. This possibility also causes great alarm in their ally Egypt, which depends heavily on the Nile basin for its survival. A pro-western Sudan, where the Blue and White Nile meet at Khartoum, is of crucial importance to the present government in Cairo.

Studies now being made by bodies such as the World Bank and the EEC of Ethiopia's long-term development requirements have a predominantly humanitarian appeal. But politics lie close to the surface, as East and West struggle to win friends and influence people in the coveted Horn.

Amid the palms, an unlikely literary bloom

Prince Rainier of Monaco has recently seen his principality grow by 50 acres of land reclaimed from the Mediterranean. A new stadium of more than Olympic dimensions has risen in the last couple of years to house Monaco's championship-calibre soccer team. Construction continues under the "Rock" of ancient Monaco and on the hills behind, and the soft drop of chips on the croupiers' tables is complemented by the constant hum of building.

Against all that excitement, the palace is proud of two rooms recently converted from an old residence on the Rock of Monaco Ville. Those rooms house the Princess Grace Irish Library, an unexpected scholastic venture which boasts the clamorous support of such famous local residents as Anthony Burgess.

Indeed, Mr Burgess has gone so far as to promise in *The Irish Times* that he would sit down at the piano in the music room and pound out some of the more than 2,000 Irish songs collected as sheet music by the late Princess Grace for any visitors who happened to be around. His even more rash claim that most of those traditional songs can be found in Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* has set the library's director, Dr Georges Sandulesco, the lengthy task of researching the claim.



Princess Grace: her own collection. Burgess: keyboard offer

Dr Sandulesco has the right background to head an Irish library on the Mediterranean. He is a Swede born in Romania of a Greek mother who studied at Leeds and Essex and published books about Joyce. He sees his primary job in the first month of the library's operation as making it known to other libraries, and to publishers and collectors who might see fit to bolster the present collection.

The core of the library, funded by the Princess Grace Foundation, is Princess Grace's own private collection of books about Ireland, begun in the 1960s after the birth of her children.

That American search for



European roots may have partly accounted for the Princess's assembly of books and music manuscripts about Ireland. The private motivation is honoured in the library by the random arrangement of books, on bookshelves copied from those in the Princess's study, so that a copy of *The Book of Kells* nestles next to a topographical dictionary of Ireland. Prince Rainier has augmented the collection with more than 150 books from the palace archives; his contribution includes some exceptionally rare and valuable volumes, the oldest being an atlas of Ireland published in Amsterdam in 1654 and written in Spanish.

For all the charm of the present

randomness of the collection, Mrs Paul Gallico, one of the five trustees, speaks of the need for planning sensible acquisitions. With the announcement of the official opening on November 30, gifts began to appear from sympathetic readers. They include an inscribed copy of *How It Is* sent by Samuel Beckett and an Irish translation of the Bible contributed by the Irish American Cultural Committee. If the library is to make such possessions part of a useful as well as valuable resource, gaps will have to be filled.

The idea of an Irish cultural retreat in the south of France has touched not only literary sensibilities but also received the endorsement of the whiskey-loving Jameson Irish Club of the Riviera. Apart from the sound of Anthony Burgess at the piano, it will also sport such events as a three-day conference on the works of James Joyce in May. Irish plays will not remain idly on the shelves, either: already there are plans to stage the Irish-American plays of Princess Grace's Pulitzer Prize-winning uncle, George Kelly.

The real contribution of the library will be the infusion of Irish culture into that rich mix which already includes Monagasque, French, Italian and the legacy of the Ballets Russes.

Ned Chaillet

David Watt

Convicted of failure to debate

Somewhere amid the haze of Christmas homilies and New Year political pep talks I seem to recollect the Prime Minister remarking, once again, that she was unashamedly a "conviction politician" and that therefore it was no use asking her to change her mind about something or other. This has been said so often that it has achieved folklore status.

What is more she herself and all her advisers and propagandists obviously revel in it. It is all part of the Iron-Lady's-not-for-turning image. "Conviction" is fashionable because it is set up as being synonymous with "resolution", and contrary to "cynical weakness."

Having spent hundreds and thousands of words in the 1960s and '70s denouncing the superficialities and evasions of Labour governments, and praying for a more principled administration, I cannot say that I am anxious to return to those days. All the same, my own hope for British politics in 1985 is that we should have a bit less conviction and a lot more of what Dr David Owen called for in an article the other day - namely reason and debate.

In theory, of course, there is nothing to prevent conviction, principle, reason and debate, all being hand in hand. In practice, however, conviction is defined as "belief produced by careful enquiry and exhaustive examination of alternatives."

To say of Mrs Thatcher that she is a "conviction politician" might mean no more than that she holds (carefully thought-out) views with loach-like tenacity. But the more natural interpretation - that she is a politician who thinks with her stomach first and rationalises later - is closer to the point. As Professor Robert Skidelsky interestingly argues in the current issue of *Encounter*, she has, throughout her prime ministership, built on a few very simple beliefs, some taken from her own rather Poujadist background, others drawn loosely from the experience of her formative political years under the Wilson and Heath governments. Britain needs the Great back inflation is too high: the trades unions are too powerful: the state is too large.

To these axioms Mr Skidelsky might have added the "convictions" that many bureaucrats are supercilious paper-shufflers, most foreigners are unreliable and nearly all coloured foreigners are on the scrounge. But the general thesis is correct. Apart from these foundation stones, everything and everyone else that is normally associated with Thatcherism - monetarist doctrine, privatisation, Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, Peter Bauer, *ad hoc* *genus omne* - were simply convenient to implement and justify her intuitions but they were really afterthoughts as far as she was concerned.

By now, of course, they have been built into a large edifice of doctrine complete with sacred flame. But some ministers at this shrine have a sneaking doubt that the High Priestess is capable of burning incense the whole pile, with them inside it, if somebody plausible came along and showed that this would achieve her intended ends with less complication and expense than the present arrangements.

This kind of conviction politics has its advantages. You can't argue with convictions in Mrs Thatcher's sense; they are revealed truth.

Philip Howard

Now, Icarus, don't be so ridiculous

If the Lord had meant us to fly, he would have created us with wings. Icarus is a feathered parable of this proposition. No, not Icarus the Cretan boy on unfeathered wings who, according to Bruegel, fell into the sea near Delos without causing much of a splash for the locals; but Icarus the budgeter. In November our household herd of livestock was increased by the birth of two budgeters, in the cage on top of the television set, Icarus a boy, and Iris a girl. For the prurient or curious non-budgeter-fancying classes, I explain that the sex of budgeters is discriminated more conveniently than most other species: the genders have different coloured beaks which is not always the case with humans.

Iris was perfectly formed, if you recognize perfection in such matters. But Icarus, by some genetic flaw, was born without wings or tail. He quickly became extremely agile, puffing himself all round the cage and on to the little swings and perches by his beak and claws. He needed to become nimble. For thirty days his father, Tereus, was a model parent, masticating millet for the chicks to eat, and proudly chattering over them like a tiny parrot. But after that he decided it was time they left home and set a robust example to dotting human parents by chasing his offspring all over the cage, with the intention of expelling them, if not worse. Icarus became extremely quick on his beak.

The story has a happy ending. Iris and he were removed to share a cage with a gentle female canary called Celandine. But Icarus has become so expert with his beak and claws that he is the only budgie in creation who can open doors with them. Nature compensates for defects, if you forget to tie the door of the cage firmly, as soon as you leave the room, Icarus opens the door and launches himself into space, falling six feet vertically on his head on the carpet. The girls sit on their perches by the open door, twittering and preening. Icarus insists on trying to fly, without the equipment.

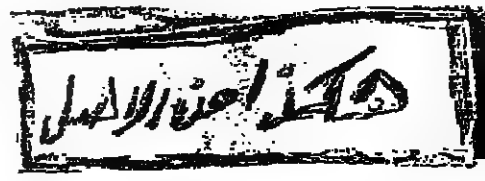
I see various morals in this everyday parable of budgie life in Notting Hill Gate. I am uneasy about keeping creatures caged in a room proportionately the size of my study for the rest of their lives without books or music. And I am not persuaded by the argument that having been born for captivity, they do not mind it. But they made no more. Returning very as tedious as go on. Or, to put it in modern parlance, a U-turn is not on, because it would cost more in credibility than it would gain in goodwill. Nor am I arguing that Mrs Thatcher will not need convictions if she is to continue to lead a radical government in the general direction, she wants. What I do believe, though, is that from now on conviction by itself will not be enough. To convince her backbenchers as well as an increasingly sceptical country she needs arguments and debate.

The real trouble with conviction politics, from the point of view of the practical politician, is that it is all right while faith lasts, but when blind belief fails in the light of real-life difficulties, your flock have nothing solid to fall back on. That is where the Prime Minister finds herself today.

Until this winter I did not share Icarus's urge to fly. Flying was for the birds, at any rate those born with wings. I reckoned. This was not because of any abnormal fear of flying. I confess to a certain unease at the recent innovation of playing cheap, cheerful music during the critical periods of landing and take-off. I consider that their ridiculous customer psychology classes have made British Airways patronizing and twee.

But the principal reason that I choose to travel to darkest Ayrshire by coach rather than air is that flying is so costly these days. This mid-winter I have had to commute between London and Ayrshire faster than a weaver's shuttle for bicentenary purposes. The only way to do it was by air. And remarkable it is. You can leave pitch-dark Abbotsinch at 7.10 and be on the ground at Heathrow by 8.10, having been urged to eat *en passage* a complex breakfast consisting of fruit juice, cornflakes in impregnable packet, milk in all too pregnable a container, hot black puddings and gammon with what appear to be hominy grits, bun sealed in plastic to baffle Houdini, butter wrapped so that you use it as nail varnish, etc.

But it is no small beauty to see the dawn rise over the horizon, Oxford changing to Cambridge blue, apricot, and rosy-buttocked. And it is terrifying how small our island is. You are hardly up and gingerly into the black puddings when there are the lights of Manchester flashing past below the starboard wing. Flying has its uses. But no real good will come of it. If they had flown, Johnson and Boswell would never have had me to notice anything on their jaunt to the Hebrides. Back to the bus, chaps.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MORE ABOUT US

Burke's age of sophists and calculators has long been upon us, and there are those who regret the sometimes promiscuous inquisitiveness of the data-gatherers, civil servant and market researcher alike, into the further recesses of bed, board and budget. Others fear that the accumulation of social statistics is somehow an invitation for misplaced State action - for example, that to know more of the conditions of the unemployed is to underwrite programmes of additional expenditure on benefits or make-work. This is to confuse the dying Fabian tradition of social engineering with an earlier curiosity - the thirst of the Victorians - figures to help them understand the dynamics of their rapidly changing society. Here is a moral for our times. It is those most anxious to see our society in transformation, to see signs of the operation through the creation and clearance of markets of individual initiative and the aggregation of free personal choice, who should be most avid for evidence of altered patterns of social life.

A merit of the annual compendium of figures published by the Central Statistical Office as *Social Trends* is that as well as enlightening, they surprise and amuse. We all have an irresistible fascination with the average, to compare our own habits with average hours spent in work and leisure, average consumption of food and drink and possession of consumer durables. The publication, now in its fourteenth year, is wittily edited, a

happy marriage of the rigorous series on births and deaths with the slippery numbers that represent our best efforts at measuring such qualities as altruism (blood donations, time spent in voluntary work). Year by year *Social Trends* could be more consistent in its tabulations but, at £19.95, it is both a bargain and an economical tribute to the quality of Britain's official statistics.

Although *Social Trends* does not, in itself, justify the large investment of public money which, despite Rayner scrutiny and other reviews, still goes into the various series of official figures, including the expensive interview and sampling work contained in the General Household Survey, that expenditure is defensible in general terms. Even if British government intervened in both economy and society considerably less than it does now, the provision of a wide array of socio-economic indices would still be a primary function of the State. It has a role in providing information so that individuals and institutions can behave rationally. The very existence of the State implies that society will have some degree of self-knowledge, and here the figures presented in *Social Trends* come into their own.

Beyond that, the Government has a duty to measure and assess the impact of its various policies. If the Government aims to loosen the bonds of district and region as part of economic

regeneration, then figures on mobility are needed. *Social Trends* will, on these lines, make ambiguous reading for ministers. Britain's vital signs are healthy, the purveyors of gloom notwithstanding; not only real disposable income and material possessions but the indices of environmental pollution and physical well-being show recent improvement. Of course the evidence is not unequivocal. Doctors will take exception to the pattern of our food intake and the volume of alcohol and tobacco. The physical deterioration of the unemployed, measured by heavy drinking and chronic illness, is now unmistakable. Yet in the round this is no picture of a society in the throes of social crisis - however much anxiety the long-run trends in the dissolution of the "nuclear family" may cause.

Should ministers take comfort from figures (for example for crime) which once-for-all kill the association so fashionably made a decade ago between high levels of unemployment and social disorganization? They might; but they also have to live with other revelations from *Social Trends*. Where are the signs of a society grinding itself for economic trial - for movement from employment into self-employment, from jobless city to prosperous suburb, from building society shares into stocks, from a (literally) sleepy pattern of work and leisure into some more active stance? *Social Trends* presents evidence of a stolid and stable Britain in an age when some ginger of our social habits might be welcome.

LOOPHOLE WAGON

The search for the practicable electric car has been like the search for the Philosopher's Stone through almost the whole of the hundred-year history of the motor car. Electric power is quiet, pollution-free and in principle cheaper than the theoretically more laborious practice of setting fire to refined vapours in confined spaces and converting the blast into rotary motion. Manufacturers all over the world have for ever been tantalized on the edge of a breakthrough, but have always foundered on the problem of storage. Conventional lead-acid batteries are heavy and expensive, and do not stand up long to the power demands of normal driving without frequent recharging. Innumerable hopeful pioneer models have failed to earn favour, except in specialized low-speed uses.

If Sir Clive Sinclair can master this problem, he will be a benefactor of mankind and will deserve to reap the rewards of his undoubted ingenuity and enterprise. But it does not appear that he has done so yet. Inventive as it is in many details, his company's new car (tricycle?) pedal dog? - a new name is called for - uses conventional batteries and is handicapped in speed and range like its predecessors, though allegedly extremely cheap to operate. It does not pretend to do a car's job. In price and capacity, it is closest to the moped bicycle, which has a better turn of speed but has never enjoyed more than moderate favour in the British climate.

It is in fact a loophole vehicle, devised to take advantage of changes made in the law in 1983. Since then it has been possible to run small electric vehicles on the highway without road tax, licence or compulsory insurance.

In theory, there are many advantages in machines which take up so little room on the road and in the car park, which spread so fumes and are incapable of that burst of irascible acceleration which leads to so many accidents. One of the great absurdities of our day is the spectacle of rush-hour traffic, with family cars three abreast, powerful engines expensively idling, each one with just one person in (and buses with 30 passengers aboard wedged deep in the crush). It will be interesting to see the effect of large numbers of Sinclair buggies released into the scene, compact, odourless, but possibly disruptively different in their driving characteristics (perhaps generating as many queues as milk-

floats) and free to park anywhere, regardless of yellow lines, meters or wheel-clamps.

The prospect gives reason for concern as well as curiosity. It is hard to predict how safe such a vehicle will be in heavy traffic, when anybody over 14 will be free to drive it without test or insurance. It is true that its speed will not be much greater than that of a push-bike, which children may ride on the open road - and do, often at some danger to themselves and others. Mopeds of up to 125cc can also be driven without a test, if L-plates are carried, and they are capable of speeds of 65 mph or more. The new machine is likely to be less dangerous than most motor-bicycles, but this is not saying much, in a category which is involved in a quarter of all fatal accidents though it accounts for only three per cent of motor mileage. More than half of the motorcyclists killed on the roads are aged between 17 and 20. If an uninsured buggy does cause an accident, who will pay? Exempt from safeguards regarded as necessary for most other powered vehicles, the loophole wagon will deserve very close watching in its early months, to ensure that the exemptions are not harmful.

CENTRAL AMERICAN CONTAINMENT

It is elections rather than inaugurations that in recent years have attracted attention in Central America: governments seek legitimacy and their enemies at home and abroad seek by fair means and foul to deny it to them. Elections past, both El Salvador and Nicaragua have faded from the news, in the case of Nicaragua, the distant observer is tempted to dismiss the heightened tension that accompanied the predictable Sandinista majority as entirely artificial, the product of the United States administration's desire to discredit the elections, and of conflicts in Washington over Central American policy. That no MIGs arrived, that Mr Shultz has asserted greater control over rival policy makers, and that President Ortega is now formally taking office might be taken to mean that the crisis is over.

That an acute confrontation has been passed does not mean that all problems have been solved and that no such confrontation is likely to occur ever again. The Soviet Union, which until recently had been less

conciliatory towards the United States over Nicaragua than the more prudent Cubans, is not going to spoil the Geneva mood for the sake of the Sandinistas. Mr Shultz is not going to give any encouragement to the more extreme designs of the *contras* and their exotic supporters. But much remains unchanged.

President Ortega's cabinet has not got a new face in it. There has been no significant shuffle. Tomas Borge remains Minister of the Interior, and the continued presence of three priests shows no concession to the Vatican or towards the majority of Nicaragua's clerical opinion. The announcement of economic improvement through a new planning commission directly responsible to the President looks like more of the medicine that bears a large part of the blame for current economic ills.

The rest of the blame is assigned to the *contras* opposition. Recent signs of Honduran nervousness over their presence, damaging revelations in the US Congress and defection from

their ranks indicate that they may be in for a harder time in 1985. They have however shown that they can survive and inflict substantial damage without official US funds, and they have not been disavowed by President Reagan. They have recently been endorsed by Arturo Cruz of the opposition *Co-ordinadora* who doubts that the Sandinistas will change course except under pressure. The three *contras* groups have also put forward their joint plan for "national dialogue". It is an unpalatable fact that it is *contra* pressure that has made the Sandinistas more reasonable, with the paradoxical rider that it is *contra* pressure that they cannot be seen to yield and survive.

For the moment the Central American situation is contained. An international consensus supports President Duarte in El Salvador. President Ortega takes office in the presence among others of Mr Kinnock. Mr Kinnock would be wrong to conclude that the Sandinistas embody democracy, just as he is wrong to discern no east-west element in this conflict.

US interest rates

From Mr Peter M. Oppenheimer
Sir, In his *US Notebook* on Christmas Eve, Maxwell Newton reported the substantial fall in US interest rates since the summer, along with the strong dollar and weak commodity prices, as a sign that inflationary expectations have diminished.
Mr Newton did not bother to point out - thinking it perhaps too obvious to deserve mention - that the fall in interest rates was preceded by an easing of monetary restraint on the part of the Federal Reserve, and was not preceded by any action to reduce the US budget deficit.

The deficit has thus not only fuelled one of the fastest cyclical upswings in US economic history, but has done so without preventing a decline in inflationary expectations, or at the very least without preventing a fall in interest rates as the upswing tapered off.

It would be good to see a humble word or two from the bevy of financial commentators, European officials and others who have unceasingly proclaimed over the past few years that all this couldn't happen and that fiscal stimulus can "lead only to accelerating inflation and higher interest rates" (as the authors of your amusing "open letter" on December 20 put it).

The damage done by such dogmatic extremism varies from case to case. I will say only that in the United States its patent silliness may already have discredited more judicious warnings in the same general direction, and caused influential figures in the Administration to suppose that the existing US budget deficit can be maintained indefinitely without harm to financial stability.

Yours faithfully,
PETER OPPENHEIMER,
Christ Church,
Oxford.

December 27.

Cloud on future of art colleges

From the Principal of the Blackheath School of Art

Sir, The item by your Education Correspondent, Lucy Hodges (January 8), regarding the proposed merger of eight London art and design colleges into a new body to be called the London Institute, is of great interest at a time when the whole future of art and design education is under active consideration at many levels.

However, I am uncertain as to whether one should view this proposal with enthusiasm. It is far from clear that the merging of already substantial organisations into a monolith will be of benefit, particularly in the fields of art and design.

Talk of a "power house" and "thriving vigour" sounds very like the kind of public-relations language used to support the corporate mergers which were so popular in the 1960s, and which usually appear to have resulted in the creation of unwieldy and bureaucratic juggernauts.

It is difficult to see how the creation of this larger London Institute will do anything but increase the management and administration at the expense of the people who do the actual teaching. Presumably more and more decisions will be taken away from the sites which are directly affected.

Freestanding art schools are becoming a rare and endangered species in this country. Such institutions cater for people with an aptitude and vocation for visual thinking and seem to work most effectively as reasonably small entities with a clear identity and well earned reputation for excellence.

The quality of an art school surely does not rest on its size and the number of students or staff it employs, but on the quality of education offered.

The "power house" could, I fear, turn out to be a bland and characterless colossus which simply does not work on the human scale.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS MCKEMEY, Principal,
The Blackheath School of Art,
21 Lee Road, SE3.

January 8.

Power generation

From Dr Peter B. Baker
Sir, The achievement of the Central Electricity Generating Board in meeting a new record demand of 45,046MW today (January 8) is to be applauded on both technical and managerial grounds. But surely it is cause for concern that 10 years after the first oil crisis, when the finite nature of fossil fuel reserves was so dramatically brought home to the western world, we are still apparently increasing our use of electricity.

This in spite of campaigns and exhortations to "Save it" and much higher standards of domestic and industrial insulation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER B. BAKER,
9 Kealworth Road, Ealing, W5.

Cool appraisal

From Mr Robin Malcolm
Sir, Whilst I fully understand the "circular" - or "dog-eats-dog" - nature of journalism in this day and age, I was amazed to read your back-page report today (January 8) headlined "Cool American style".

I am afraid that I must admit to this North American style of weather forecasting being presented to the British public for more than a year through the good offices of our own weather bureau - a bureau working from the global conditions observed and interpreted by the long-established City firm of Noble Denton.

The "wind chill factor" was the subject of much discussion here at LBC when our regular forecaster, Philip Eden, suggested, back in the depths of 1983, that it was something at least as significant as mere temperature. It is, at least, gratifying that the BBC has at last recognised the way the wind is blowing.

Yours sincerely,
R. MALCOLM, Editor, AM,
London Broadcasting Co. Ltd.,
Gough Square, EC4.

Trees for burning

From Mr S. Blanche
Sir, The answer to Mr Bevin's question (December 29) on the disposal of uprooted trees is that no Government agency will undertake such a task as it would require an office block in a prime city site with a director, several deputy directors etc. to administer the free disposal of the logs, and it would probably cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds a week to achieve this end.

Yours faithfully,
S. BLANCHE,
Blanche & Co.,
Thames House,
Wellington Street, SE18.

Tabs on teachers

From Mr David Flint
Sir, Yet again Sir Keith Joseph fires a broadside at incompetent teachers and by implication blames them for the failings he perceives in our education system. As a class teacher in a primary school I would like to put to him, publicly, a number of points.

In the hierarchy of education I am at the bottom. Above me are a head teacher, a board of governors, education officers, local and government inspectors, a local education committee of the county council, officials of the DES and a secretary of state. Am I the only one of all these whose annual assessment of performance warrants legislation?

I have no right to refuse a child entry to my class; I have no right to say in how large my class should be; I have no right to say in the equipping of my classroom; I have

Sleight of hand for Budget?

From Mr Harvey Cole

Sir, A dangerous myth is gaining acceptance. This suggests that movements in the exchange rate with the dollar are likely to offset movements in the market price of oil, so that there is little or no reason for any national concern over trends in the oil and the foreign exchange markets.

Indeed, indifference is being deliberately encouraged in some quarters. It is pointed out that, provided sterling depreciates faster than the dollar price of oil, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have more money to "give away" in income-tax cuts in March.

Since mid-November the pound has fallen from around \$1.26 to about \$1.15. Oil has fallen more slowly - from around \$28 to \$26.50 a barrel. But its sterling cost has therefore gone up from about £22.30 to £23 a barrel.

This four per cent rise is worth some £600 million to the Government in additional revenue from the North Sea. But Mr Lawson needs to think twice - or more - before assuming he can blithely add this to the cuts in income tax on which he is single-mindedly relying to reduce unemployment. Day-to-day variations in the figures do not affect the argument.

Apart from the possibility of recent trends being reversed, the

whole thing is little more than an optical illusion anyway. The mirror image of the rise in petroleum revenues is an increase in the sterling cost of oil to consumers in this country - of rather more than £600 million. All that is happening as sterling falls faster than oil is a transfer of cash from consumers to Government.

To hand this back in form of income-tax cuts changes nothing - particularly as the beneficiaries will be outnumbered by those left facing the higher costs.

All that any Budget based on these lines will achieve is an extension of the principle of pushing up the costs of certain goods and services which everybody has to pay, so as to finance cuts in income tax. Mr Lawson's constructive accountancy has already forced up prices of gas, electricity and water to fund higher tax thresholds - and is desperately selling off public assets and shareholdings to maintain the momentum.

It is time to stop admiring the speed and sleight of the Chancellor's hand: more than the eye is being deceived by his destructive fudging of the national accounts.

Yours &c,
HARVEY COLE,
9 Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire,
January 8.

Nuclear deterrence

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, How would you react to the following propositions?

1. If both the USA and the USSR achieve, by the end of the century, immunity from nuclear attack, what is still to be feared? The outbreak of some East/West war in which western Europe, even if not overrun, might well be largely destroyed by cruise and low-trajectory nuclear missiles that could not possibly be covered by the SDI (strategic defence initiative)?

2. If, on the other hand, the USA eventually achieves comparative, if not total, immunity which the USSR does not, are not the Russians, theoretically at least, at the total mercy of the Americans? How do you suppose the Politburo would react to such a threat?

3. If, contrariwise, the Americans do not achieve complete nuclear immunity, even after the expenditure of countless billions of dollars, would not a consequent weakening

of the US economy, hence of American "conventional" resources, unfavourably affect the whole Western Alliance?

4. In any case, if MAD (mutual assured destruction), the whole concept of equality, is now to be consciously abandoned, does not this imply that we are in for an uncontrollable arms race, as a result of which - long before the end of the century - the Soviet Union either surrenders its position as a world power (and probably disintegrates) or is defeated by military means? Is either contingency probable?

No doubt the Europeans are in a weak position to insist that the SDI should be traded away in the forthcoming negotiations, if the Americans decline to do anything of the sort. But SDI is also opposed by many Americans - perhaps even a majority in Congress. So there seems to be no reason why the Europeans should not at least be allowed their say.

Yours faithfully,
GLADWYN,
Bramfield Hall, Halesworth, Suffolk.

Reform in S. Africa

From Mr Donald Woods

Sir, In his letter (December 27) on economic pressures against the South African Government, James Barber, Master of Hatfield College, left out the most important argument for such pressures - the psychological impact sanctions would have on Pretoria.

One of the myths Pretoria fosters abroad is that sanctions would lead to increased white intransigence, yet the record of sanctions in sport and travel suggests otherwise, and apartheid intensification over the past 15 years has coincided almost precisely with peaks of investment and lending from abroad. The last billion-dollar IMF loan to Pretoria coincided with a billion-dollar increase in the South African police and military budget.

But it is not only in the interests of black South Africans that the West should adopt a harder line against apartheid - it is in the West's own interests. Increasingly per-

ceived by all Africa and the Third World as sympathetic to the wrong side in the escalating conflict in South Africa, the West is becoming increasingly alienated from that country's black majority, a fact no doubt noted with satisfaction by elements favouring an Eastern orientation for post-apartheid South Africa.

Yet another reason for such pressure is that it is the only remaining non-violent means of compelling Pretoria to what is surely the most desirable path to racial peace in South Africa - the negotiating table. If we want to save the lives of many young white and black South Africans now preparing for war we require a policy of constructive disengagement from the economic and diplomatic underpinnings of the apartheid superstructure.

What is needed is an economic and diplomatic version of the Camp David Agreement.

DONALD WOODS, Director,
The Lincoln Trust,
42 Camden Square, NW1.

Starved on the circuits

From Mrs Laetitia Gifford

Sir, In March, 1985, as you report on December 28 and 29, British Film Year will be launched with the slogan "Cinema: the best place to see a film". As the manager of a small, independent cinema I am, of course, enthusiastic for the success of the campaign, but not optimistic unless the distributors decide to reverse their policy of "take the money and run".

During the last week I have been sent a film with damaged sound-track, another, as we have spent a lot of money installing stereo sound. A neighbouring exhibitor has had to drive 50 miles to borrow from me a film which we are showing in a week's time because the copy he was sent was too badly damaged to be screened.

A film for a Christmas show failed to arrive; another, wildly unsuitable, was sent instead. "Apologies that your title was not available. We hope this substitute will be acceptable." (So much for a contract.)

Meanwhile the distributors' policy to make only sufficient prints to supply their circuits when films are new means that independent cinemas are chronically starved of films which their local public would come to see, encouraged by publicity. This has gone cold by the time the films are available for the independents.

Of course I realise that *Ghostbusters*

will take far more money in Birmingham than in Aldeburgh, but am afraid that unless the distributors are prepared to forgo a little of that money now, and spend it on increased efficiency, the British Film Year, with its avowed aim of increasing cinema audiences by 49 per cent is a bad joke.

Yours faithfully,
LAETITIA GIFFORD, Chairman,
The Aldeburgh Cinema Ltd.,
High Street,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

Toll of congestion

From Mr L. A. O. Jenkins

Sir, M25 users who queue daily at the Dartford Tunnel will be pleased to know that, at the cost of several million pounds and extreme road works congestion for two years, some relief to the problem may be expected when the number of toll booths is doubled.

However, it would perhaps be a further reassurance if it could be explained also what plans are envisaged to prevent frequent collisions - the inevitable result of 12 lanes of lorries and cars converging into just two, in the space of just a few hundred yards, prior to entering the tunnel.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. O. JENKINS,
11 Bankside,
Hartley, Dartford, Kent.

another form of assessment will help me to do a better job for the children in my class.

I spend 25 hours a week with over 30 children and I have no receptionist, no secretary and no nurse to call upon for help, and I am still expected to deal with each child as an individual.

Twenty years ago there was a handful of educational advisers in Northamptonshire. Now there are twenty local "inspectors" of education. I feel sufficiently inspected and assessed. What I feel the need for is some support and assistance that will make some real improvement in what I am able to do for the children I teach.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FLINT,
30 Blackmile Lane,
Grendon,
Northampton,
January 1.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 11 1846
[UNITED NATIONS]

The United Nations formally came into existence on October 24 1945. The General Assembly first met on January 10 1946 at Central Hall, Westminster. London when representatives of 51 nations were present. One hundred and fifty nine states are now members.

From our Uno Correspondent

The first session of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization was formally opened and began its historic talks yesterday afternoon. After hearing speeches by Dr Eduardo Zuleta Angel, chairman of the Preparatory Commission and acting chairman of the Assembly, and by Mr Juan Luis Rodriguez, Prime Minister, delegates proceeded to the election of its first president. This produced an early surprise, as the election was contested. The Assembly will resume its work at 10.15 this morning.

The scene in the Central Hall, Westminster, for the opening ceremony was brilliant and impressive. The floor of the hall was occupied by the delegates of the 51 members of Uno - among them many of the foreign ministers and leading statesmen of the world. Memories of Geneva were revived by the presence of some who played their part in the League of Nations, also brought into being on January 10, exactly 26 years before. The beautiful flowing robes and the headdress of keffiyeh and agal of the Saudi Arabian delegates harmonized with the delicate setting of the occasion.

The contrast to Geneva was, however, immediate and important. When the League was launched neither the United States nor Russia was a member - today both countries are exercising a power greater than any they have hitherto known, are members of the United Nations, have played an essential part in its creation, and will be called on to shoulder a cardinal share of its responsibilities.

Many public figures were in the distinguished visitors' gallery - among them the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Addison, Lord Samuel, Lord Simon, the Prime Minister, General Sir Archibald Nye, Marshal of the R.A.F. Sir Arthur Tedder, and Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, commanding the United States fleet in European waters. Mrs. Attlee occupied a seat in the front row of the gallery. The Press and public galleries were filled with many standing. Several members of the public had queued all night for admission.

THE OPENING SPEECHES

The chair was taken shortly before 4 o'clock by Dr. Zuleta. An animated scene lay before the platform, with photographers of the world's Press flitting from one to another of the delegations, but at two minutes after the hour the hum of conversation ceased suddenly when the chairman rapped twice with his mallet, and asked delegates to be seated. A brief pause, and he added "Ladies and gentlemen, the Assembly is opened". Thus, in this quiet way, the work begun at Dumbarton Oaks and fashioned at San Francisco came to fruit. Dr. Zuleta's own speech, in French, followed. His affirmation of the purposes for which the United Nations had been brought into being held the attention of the Assembly throughout.

After Dr. Zuleta came Mr. Attlee. Both as he walked to the rostrum and at the close of his speech, the Prime Minister was warmly applauded. He recalled how he, too, had been associated with the San Francisco conference, and recalled the Assembly that the freedom of the individual in the State was an essential complement to the freedom of the State - in the world community of nations. With the coming of the atomic bomb, it was for the people of the world to make their choice between life and death. He had no use for the sceptics and the pessimists, and he called for a spirit of hope as well as determination. In a fine closing passage the Prime Minister gave the Assembly - gathered in this ancient home of liberty and order - this watchword: "We must and will succeed".

Road traffic offences

From Police Constable A. G. Rayner

Sir, The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1984 created offences of failing to display front and rear position lamps (side-lights) and headlamps in conditions of bad visibility. Regrettably, they do not attract penalty points.

What constitutes visibility of a sufficiently poor level to require lamps is left to the discretion of the individual police officer. If the quality of his evidence is good enough a conviction will result.

Surely a speed offence could be created of driving at an excessive speed having regard to visibility? The burden of proof need be no more severe than for the lighting offences where a subjective judgment is accepted.

As to exceeding speed limits on motorways and elsewhere, why not make it an interesting penalty option of a fine and discretionary disqualification into mandatory disqualification for a short period?

Yours faithfully,
A. G. RAYNER,
6 Burton Close,
Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

Late bird

From Mrs Jane Stockwell

Sir, At 8.30 this evening I discovered that *The Times* Portfolio dividend matched my total.

Do I qualify as the first cuckoo of Spring?
Yours faithfully,
JANE STOCKWELL,
10 Alford Close, Guildford, Surrey,
January 7.

Honey for jam

From Dr A. C. Cattanach

Sir, Your report (January 8) that we eat more honey and less marmalade.

It comes as no surprise. One knows that there will be no peal in honey whereas the uncertainty that there will be any peal in today's "good" marmalades is positively unnerving at breakfast.

The only certainty about marmalade is that it comes in smaller jars at a greater price.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. CATTANACH,
3 Hale Gardens,
New Milton, Hampshire.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Confusing pictures from a dimmed Thorn EMI

Two of Britain's largest companies, Thorn EMI and Land Securities, met quite heavily yesterday in a market more or less committed to vertical take-off. Their experience, emphasised yet again, that stock market assessments are now a ruthless leveller. Companies with under-performing managements must expect rough treatment at the hands of analysts and fund managers.

Thorn EMI has spent some months sweet-talking the City about its problems, and the interim pre-tax profit of £40.2 million, down £15 million, compared with 1983/84, was broadly in line with expectations. Nevertheless, the shares fell from 477p to 467p.

Thorn produced a more helpful divisional breakdown of its figures than usual, then invited the analysts to chat about the results. Clearly they were unimpressed by what they heard.

The shares have underperformed by close on 50 per cent in the last year. This is not a pretty performance, bearing in mind that last July Thorn raised £141 million of fresh equity capital.

The Thorn strategy looks fairly straightforward. The group is keen to stay in high technology areas, witness its expensive £125 million bid for chip-maker Immos. Such capital intensive ventures can be funded by cash flow from more mature businesses like music and TV rental. Meanwhile a refurbished Thorn board under the leadership of chief executive Peter Laister, believes it can cope with any transitional problems, behind a "Business as Usual" stance. Mr Laister called the last six months a time of consolidation. This is a euphemism after the havoc wreaked in the consumer electronics division in general, and in the Ferguson subsidiary in particular, by Japanese competition.

Ferguson has been hit by overcapacity, and a price war signalled by the split between GEC and Hitachi. Volumes in the large screen TV business fell by something like a third. The entire pricing structure of the market appears to have been torpedoed. Thorn's stocks have climbed by £100 million in the last six months when Ferguson tumbled into losses. A far cry from the boom £25 million of profit it made the previous year.

Thorn is now deeply troubled about the most appropriate way of handling the changed situation. On the one hand, Mr Laister acknowledges that the last six months have been a major setback. The problems will not disappear overnight. Capacity underutilization will remain. Yet while claiming that Ferguson has a "strategic future," he also suggested yesterday that if Ferguson does not prove to be a good business, then the group might dispose of it.

It is easy to sympathize with Mr Laister's dilemma. The market wants rapid action on a subsidiary which suffered a £13 million downturn in the last six months, and may now be making losses in excess of £10 million a year. Yet axing Ferguson would cut the ground from under Thorn's strategy. The easy cash flow from the rental business is based on access to in-house set, production by Ferguson. Buying in TV sets from outside might hit rental margins hard.

Thorn also faces problems on two other fronts - cash and product. On the music side, a near £6 million slide into losses of £4.2 million is attributable to heavy losses in the US, where Capital Records made the wrong sound. In domestic appliances, a new cooker may have missed the boat. In consumer electronics, the group is doing well with small screen televisions, but complaining about the margins.

Cash is tight, evidenced by the rise in interest costs of £5 million to £23.2 million; and a substantial rise in borrowings, matched presumably against stocks. Some analysts expect year-end borrowings to rise by about £70 million to close on £400 million.

Not surprisingly, Thorn group is talking about restricting capital expenditure to obvious growth areas. But Immos is facing tough trading. According to Mr Laister, "Sales have held up well in the face of the anticipated present market weakness". Such doleful remarks hardly convey the flavour of a pulse-racing drive into a new growth area.

Some analysts claim that the shares are a buy, arguing that the management can and will cope. Others are sceptical about the new board's ability to plan its way through the current trough. The opportunistic, failed bid for British Aerospace can now be seen as a measure of the corner into which the company has got itself.

Shares in Land Securities, our largest

property concern by far, dropped 60 to 302p and have fallen six per cent in three weeks. The impending asset valuation currently being prepared by Knight Frank and Rutley for the year-end on March 13, will be significant. Notional figures are now being trimmed. Yields on non-print properties are being talked upwards, and valuation of the group's large holdings of office blocks built in the 1960s is not easy.

A lower-than-expected valuation might reflect awareness of the heavy refurbishment costs needed to bring these buildings up to modern standard. Land Securities' liquid funds are low. (Chris Turner of Laing Cruickshank puts them no higher than £35 million, a tiny figure compared with the market capitalization of £1.6 billion.)

A debenture issue might be the way out but this would be a bold initiative if the net asset value comes out at less than 400p.

Chinese walls make insecure houses

The debate over the future of the Stock Exchange went quiet over much of December, but should stir over the next couple of months. Progress has to be resumed soon if Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange, is to fulfill his 1983 promise to Mr Cecil Parkinson, then Trade Secretary, that broker's fixed commissions will be abandoned by the end of next year.

But there are signs that the long haul has taken a toll of mental stamina. This week we have been treated to the sight of the Stock Exchange Council, the ruling body, spending two days without reaching a decision on the central question of how outsiders might be admitted to the club without diluting the communal goodwill possessed by the existing members.

Yesterday the Council for the Securities Industry, in one of its dying breaths, attempted to enclose in a code inscribable Chinese Walls the quaint pre-school euphemism for conflicts of interest.

It is said that the Stock Exchange Council's bigger brothers have been bending over backwards to accommodate the smaller fry on the terms to let in outsiders. Partners in most of the large firms have of course already negotiated for themselves substantial sums from banks and other bodies eager to acquire an established presence in the stock market. Smaller firms have not been so fortunate.

The strength of the rank and file is that a 75 per cent vote is required to make the constitutional changes necessary for large firms to fulfil their contractual obligations to their putative parents. But the assets of the Stock Exchange are unsaleable and each member's share is worth only as much as the member who owns it. Time is on the side of the big guns.

The CSI's philosophical dissertation will, it may be ventured, become a late relic of the old days. After urging support for the equivalent of motherhood and apple pie in securities trading, it is as good as admits that firms will have to be on their honour not to grow creepers over or make chinks in Chinese Walls except when they are allowed. It amounts to a charter for the very thing the City abhors: a Securities Commission with dragon's teeth.

Times securities conference

The timing could not be bettered, nor the practical importance of the subject exaggerated, of the securities conference The Times has arranged in conjunction with leading accountants, Peat Marwick. The conference which will take place at the InterContinental Hotel, London, on Tuesday, February 5, will examine the operation and regulation of the securities market in the light of significant changes that have recently taken place and are about to take place.

Distinguished speakers, each an expert in his field, will look at the implications for the City, professional advisers, directors of quoted companies and owners of companies considering going public, of the latest legislation, the revised Stock Exchange "Yellow Book" and the forthcoming White Paper.

They include Robin Broadley (Barings Brothers), Martin Gibbs (Phillips & Drew), Robin Hodgson (NASDIM), Richard Lloyd (Hill Samuel), Michael Newmarch (Prudential) and Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy.

A complete prospectus is available from: Mrs P. D. Austin, Peat Marwick, No 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London, EC4V 3PD.

Search for rig yard site

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Howards Doris, the offshore oil and gas rig builder with yards at Loch Kishorn, in the Western Highlands, and at Mitchell, Fife, has confirmed it is close to completing a deal to acquire another yard on the east coast.

Before Christmas Mr Albert Granville, chairman of the company which is 50 per cent owned by CG Doris of France with the John Howard Group and the Fairclough Construction Group each owning 25 per cent, said the purchase of a third yard was being considered.

In a statement the company has said it is "currently involved in negotiations for the acquisition of such a yard" and that it is "in the early and delicate state of negotiations for orders."

A proposal which has already been agreed in principle by the

three shareholders, is a new yard to be set up on an existing site to take advantage of the expected surge in orders for equipment needed for the expansion of gas fields in the southern sector of the North Sea.

The company has already ruled out taking over an existing shipbuilding facility - experience of working as consultants in a shipyard on the Clyde has ruled out such a move.

Bids for work in the southern sector of the North Sea have been submitted based on the work being done at Loch Kishorn, but qualified with price reductions which would become available if a new yard is acquired in the south-east.

Among the sites possible is one already owned by the John Howard Group adjoining Chiswick dockyard, an area within the North Kent Enterprise Zone

property concern by far, dropped 60 to 302p and have fallen six per cent in three weeks. The impending asset valuation currently being prepared by Knight Frank and Rutley for the year-end on March 13, will be significant. Notional figures are now being trimmed. Yields on non-print properties are being talked upwards, and valuation of the group's large holdings of office blocks built in the 1960s is not easy.

A lower-than-expected valuation might reflect awareness of the heavy refurbishment costs needed to bring these buildings up to modern standard. Land Securities' liquid funds are low. (Chris Turner of Laing Cruickshank puts them no higher than £35 million, a tiny figure compared with the market capitalization of £1.6 billion.)

A debenture issue might be the way out but this would be a bold initiative if the net asset value comes out at less than 400p.

The debate over the future of the Stock Exchange went quiet over much of December, but should stir over the next couple of months. Progress has to be resumed soon if Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange, is to fulfill his 1983 promise to Mr Cecil Parkinson, then Trade Secretary, that broker's fixed commissions will be abandoned by the end of next year.

But there are signs that the long haul has taken a toll of mental stamina. This week we have been treated to the sight of the Stock Exchange Council, the ruling body, spending two days without reaching a decision on the central question of how outsiders might be admitted to the club without diluting the communal goodwill possessed by the existing members.

Yesterday the Council for the Securities Industry, in one of its dying breaths, attempted to enclose in a code inscribable Chinese Walls the quaint pre-school euphemism for conflicts of interest.

It is said that the Stock Exchange Council's bigger brothers have been bending over backwards to accommodate the smaller fry on the terms to let in outsiders. Partners in most of the large firms have of course already negotiated for themselves substantial sums from banks and other bodies eager to acquire an established presence in the stock market. Smaller firms have not been so fortunate.

The strength of the rank and file is that a 75 per cent vote is required to make the constitutional changes necessary for large firms to fulfil their contractual obligations to their putative parents. But the assets of the Stock Exchange are unsaleable and each member's share is worth only as much as the member who owns it. Time is on the side of the big guns.

The CSI's philosophical dissertation will, it may be ventured, become a late relic of the old days. After urging support for the equivalent of motherhood and apple pie in securities trading, it is as good as admits that firms will have to be on their honour not to grow creepers over or make chinks in Chinese Walls except when they are allowed. It amounts to a charter for the very thing the City abhors: a Securities Commission with dragon's teeth.

The timing could not be bettered, nor the practical importance of the subject exaggerated, of the securities conference The Times has arranged in conjunction with leading accountants, Peat Marwick. The conference which will take place at the InterContinental Hotel, London, on Tuesday, February 5, will examine the operation and regulation of the securities market in the light of significant changes that have recently taken place and are about to take place.

Distinguished speakers, each an expert in his field, will look at the implications for the City, professional advisers, directors of quoted companies and owners of companies considering going public, of the latest legislation, the revised Stock Exchange "Yellow Book" and the forthcoming White Paper.

They include Robin Broadley (Barings Brothers), Martin Gibbs (Phillips & Drew), Robin Hodgson (NASDIM), Richard Lloyd (Hill Samuel), Michael Newmarch (Prudential) and Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy.

A complete prospectus is available from: Mrs P. D. Austin, Peat Marwick, No 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London, EC4V 3PD.

Dr Greenspan: no major new initiatives

Dr Greenspan, a member of President Reagan's economic policy advisory board, said in London yesterday that he did not expect any major new White House initiatives on the federal budget deficit. Instead, he argued, action would only be taken if the Administration was forced into it by an over-strong dollar and a re-emergence of the international banking crisis.

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Pound plunges to \$1.1330 as oil uncertainties increase

By David Young and David Smith

The pound plunged to new lows yesterday, the sterling index falling 0.7 to 71.6, and the pound dropping 98 points to \$1.1330 against the dollar, after trading at \$1.1300.

Sterling's across-the-board fall was attributed to the Government's apparent lack of concern for the pound's international level and renewed oil uncertainties, coming to a head with afternoon rumours, later denied, that Nigeria is about to withdraw from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

A Ministry of Information official in Lagos called the rumours false and said that Nigeria's delegation would attend the next scheduled meeting of Opec and "continue to play a full part".

However, the rise in spot market prices caused by the cold weather and from which Opec has been drawing some comfort seems to have been halted. It has consistently been Opec's view that the worsening weather would lead to restocking by industrialized countries with prices moving upwards.

In Rotterdam yesterday the price per barrel of North Sea Brent crude for loading in February was \$26.30, compared with \$26.60 the previous day. The new price is \$2.45 below the official price set for British North Sea crude by the Government trading operation, the British National Oil Corporation.

BNOC has still to set an official price for the first quarter of this year, seemingly being prepared to accept losses by buying oil in at its previous rate of \$26.65 and selling more than half of its 1.3 million barrels a day purchases at a loss at spot market related prices.

BNOC appears to have ruled out being a price leader and instead will wait until after the next emergency meeting of Opec, scheduled for January 28, and to follow any official price cut made by the organization.

Unless the demand for oil goes against most official predictions and starts to rise dramatically within the next two weeks, Opec will be faced with making more than a cosmetic change to its price



Tam David-West: Nigeria to stay in Opec

structure as it did in December and having to announce a full scale price reduction.

Traders in Rotterdam yesterday suggested that consumers had already discounted the effects of the colder weather with stocks, especially in the United States, rising again.

The Nigerian Government said last night that there was no truth in the rumours of its withdrawal from Opec and that travel and accommodation arrangements are now being made for Professor Tam David-West, the country's oil minister, to lead the Nigerian delegation at the next Opec meetings.

Nigeria has been out of step with its Opec colleagues on pricing since September when it followed Norway and then Britain with a cut in its official prices. Its Bonny Light crude is now officially trading at 30 cents below the Opec marker of \$29 and its output quota has been left unchanged for over two years while other members, with the exception of Iraq, have had output limited by Opec.

Trading in sterling yesterday was described as "one way traffic" by one dealer.

The authorities may have intervened to smooth the pound's fall, but any intervention was modest.

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COMMODITIES

1984	85			
High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge

400	370	Ashdown	400	+5
143	96	Almira	131	..
101	71	Atlantic Avenue	92	..

2000-01	TW HIGH-GR
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Yld % P/E	1984/85 High Low Corn
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2001-02 | **TW HIGH-GR**
Cash

Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div per share	Yld %	P/E	198 High
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MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

2.1	215	175	Growthring	255	1.9	0.9	144
3.0	275	167	Growthring Mgmt	255	2.7	2.2	290
3.0	142	714	Hampton	140	0.4	0.5	176
3.0	225	187	Hill (P)	225	13.2	8.5	251
3.6	500	188	Investment Resources	500	7.5	1.8	159
1.3	219	182	Inv Cap	219	5.1	2.4	159
0.3	64	45	Japan Assets	67	6.1	0.1	90

SETTING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES				
	Market rates day's range	Market rates close		
	January 10	January 10	1 month	3 months
New York	\$1,130.1-1,150	\$1,125.1-1,125	0.17-0.15c prem	0.48-0.44c prem
Montreal	\$1,490.1-1,510	\$1,491.1-1,490	0.01c prem-0.03c disc	0.18-0.05c prem
Amsterdam	4.6223-4.6608	4.6226-4.6258	1 1/2-1c prem	4 1/2-5c prem
Brussels	71.30-72.15	71.30-71.45	4-8c disc	7-12c disc
			1 1/2-2c disc	7-21, 60c disc

12.7800-12.8190h	12.7800-12.7972h	2.40-2.45p disc	100
1430-1.1580p	1.1430-1.1440p	39-55p disc	37
5814-3.6025m	3.5840-3.5880m	13-15p prem	37

London	135.18-135.25B	182.15-182.25B	255-258 disc	175-187B disc
Madrid	182.15-182.25B	182.15-184.45C	45-75B disc	125-180 disc
Mexico	187.05-189.55B	187.05-187.50B	8-10B disc	22-22B disc
Milan	21.342.50-22.17.00V	21.344.76-22.02.35C	2-3-gro disc	7-17-gro disc
Osaka	10.445.10-10.447.10C	10.446.10-10.451.10C	1-10 disc	14-25 disc
Paris	10.016.01-11.042B	10.512.01-10.520.01C	1-10 disc	14-25 disc
Stockholm	10.243.01-10.233.01C	10.242.01-10.235.01C	1-1-gro prem	3-24 prem
Tokyo	287.11-287.70V	287.48-285.40V	1-1-gro prem	15-17-gro prem
Vienna	25.05-25.30Bch	25.07-25.11Bch	1-1-gro prem	1-1-gro prem

covered with 1975 was down 9.7 at 71.6 (year's range 73.2-71.4).

OTHER STERLING RATES		DOLLAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina peso*	216.37-216.71	Ireland	0.9900-0.9916
Australia dollar	0.3940-0.3950	Singapore	2.1980-2.2008
Bahian dollar	0.4225-0.4238	Switzerland franc	2.4732-2.4750
Brazil cruzeiro*	365.51-367.63	Antigua	0.8180-0.8190
Cayman island	0.73-0.74	Canada	1.3209-1.3214

7 4080-7 5380
145-147

Hong Kong dollar	HK\$699-1,540.71	Denmark	11,262.61-12,980
Indian rupee	14.17-17.48	West Germany	3,141.03-1,425
Iraqi dir		Switzerland	2,830.9-6,950
Kuwait dinar (KD)	0.2440-0.2478	Netherlands	2,549.9-5,545
Malaysian ringgit	2.8037-2.8078	France	0.5409-0.8500
Mexican peso	230-262	Japan	263.55-293.70
New Zealand dollar	3.4014-2.4088	Israel	1,937-1,944
Saudi Arabia riyal	4.0440-4.0840	Belgium/Conns	53.05-63.19
Singapore dollar	2.49-2.50	Hong Kong	9,780.0-7,792.0

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUST[illegible]

'Cheap steel' claim prompts US inquiry

US may bar Japan

US may bar Japan

He said that he recommended that Japan should use the US procedures as a model for the Japanese telecommunications industry.

RECENT ISSUES

[illegible]

CU in demand on talk of US sale

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares of Commercial Union, the loss-making insurance group, were in heavy demand as the stock market closed yesterday. Suggestions that the group had sold off its troublesome American operations sent the shares surging to 23p, a 12p gain on the day. Almost all the advance was in late trading.

There was also talk that a dawn raid, presumably from Allianz, the German insurance group which lost the epic takeover battle for Eagle Star to BAT Industries, will be launched today.

The sale of CU's North American interests could transform its prospects, now dominated by the cloud of its American connection. In the first nine months of its current year, CU has lost £30.6 million, with £16.1 million of the deficit coming in the third quarter. In the first nine months of last year CU achieved a £43.8 million profit.

A late flurry of selling halted the stock market's seemingly inexorable advance towards the 1,000-point mark.

Just when it looked as though the market had overcome a mid-morning bout of the jitters, largely stemming from the poor Thorne EMI interim figures, and was going to end the day with a comfortable plus, the sellers moved in to clip the FT 30 share index to 982.4.

At one time it had been riding at 987.2, up 4.1. The more broadly based FT SE share index also closed below its best, but still sporting a rise, it finished at a closing record of 1,261.0 points, up 1.8. At one time, it was 1,263.9 points.

Trading was heavy with more than 32,000 bargains. Although blue chips were, in some cases off their best levels at the close, the market remained firm. The FT 30 share index is still on course to top the 1,000-point mark soon.

Many market muck drew comfort from the steadiness of the market in face of such heavy trading. "It is just a period of consolidation," said one dealer.

The continuing drift back to the pits and the more relaxed atmosphere over interest rates helped sentiment. But yet further sterling weakness on the foreign exchange market and the latest oil upheaval, rumours that Nigeria has withdrawn from Opec, caused some anxiety.

Shares in BTR, the industrial group which won the battle for control of Thomas Tilling

almost two years ago, slipped back from the recent new share price peak. Small-scale profit-taking skimmed 13p from the shares to take shares to 621p.

Recent strength in BTR has been linked to the group's latest acquisition plans, but there are now some worries that a rights issue or vendor placing might be on the way to help pay for further growth.

At BICC, buying support from Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, helped to take

Penland Industries, the Hertfordshire company best known for the success of its Rebo shoes in the US, leapt 10 per cent yesterday to a new share price peak of 335. Grieson Grant, stockbroker to the company, has been buying shares. Stockjobbers are dealing only in 1,000 lots apparently, as a death of sellers makes itself felt.

Shares of the electricals and cabling group 15p higher to 273p, with stilling of the previous price peak. Mr Richard Ryder, analyst at P. & D. believes the shares look undervalued. Given BICC's progress in restructuring and improving profit trend, he believes "the present price looks attractive on the medium term view".

Wolsey-Hughes continues its strong run, rising 5p to 318p, a new high. The group, which makes central heating equipment and garden tools, has been surrounded by bid talk and investment recommendations.

James Neil Holdings, the Sheffield tools group, jumped 15p to 155p yesterday as speculation grew that Sater, the ambitious group headed by Mr David Abell, was buying more shares ahead of a bid for full control. Sater's has declared shareholding in JNH was 11.9 per cent.

during the past weeks. The cold snap has encouraged investors to buy the stock, but Quilter Goodson, the stockbroker, believes Wolsey is feeling pressure on its earnings which could wipe out any benefits from increased demand.

TI Group surge ahead to 252p as market heard that Mr Gerald Ransom was coming back for most of the shares. He is already believed to hold around 5 per cent of the

engineering group, but is saying nothing. By the close, the TI price had slipped back to 250p, a 10p rise on the day.

Howard Machinery, where stock market talk is of a bid from F. H. Tomkins, eased 1p to 14p yesterday. Tomkins already has 21 per cent of Howard, and the City expects the former company to expand rapidly.

Shares in IMI dipped 2p from their recent high of 106p as enthusiasm for the Birmingham group waned. One leading broker firm has now downgraded profit forecasts slightly, despite having been a heavy buyer of IMI shares recently.

BSR, the electricals group, was marked 1p lower yesterday at 160p as recent buying of the shares came to an end. But the stock still trades in the lower half of its price range, having taken knocks in the past months from downgraded profit forecasts, worries for its Hong Kong business and the decision by Pifco not to buy the Swan Housewares subsidiary.

Wordplex Information Systems, the office equipment and software group, is moving steadily away from its recent low point. Yesterday, the shares gained 10p to 183p.

The British Rail Pension Fund has built up a 5.02 per cent stake in Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, it was disclosed yesterday. The shares rose 5p to 375p.

Pottery maker Wedgwood saw its shares marked 2p lower yesterday. The company has proved popular in recent weeks on the back of market hopes for a bid; the sell-off of the Royal Worcester ceramics businesses by Crystalate last summer went rather better than market men had previously imagined, firing thoughts of takeover demand for the other great name in British fine china.

Riley Leisure is also having a boost from bid hopes. The shares of this maker of snooker tables rose 10p to 57p. There is often a run for the stock to coincide with televised snooker competitions.

Ladbroke Group rose another 8p to 280p after this week's announcement of the letting of a prime London office site to Citibank, the US Bank.

The Americans are reckoned to be paying around £20 per square foot for the 50,000 sq ft building adjoining the Savoy Hotel on The Strand.

Oils fell back on the uncertainty over Nigeria's Opec

intentions. But among second liners Falcon Resources, on exploration hopes jumped 25p to 253p.

Imperial Group jumped above the 300p mark, touching 302p, a 5p gain on the day. United Biscuits, thought to be an Imps bid target, rose 3p to 217p. At one time, the shares touched 219p.

Gits registered some unease over the plight of sterling, recording falls of up to £5.

British Telecom responded to

American investors have been attracted to Elam, the woman's clothing group. Morgan Guaranty Trust, which often represents US investors, said yesterday it now held 5.4 per cent of the company. Elam shares rose 2p to 147p. The shares came to market at 95p in June.

its maiden interim figures with a best ever level of 122p, a gain of 7p on the day. But Burel EMI fell 10p to 467p.

Tate & Lyle, on talk of US interest, rose 8p to 473p. Nardella Peaseck, the cash and carry warehouse chain, was also wanted on takeover speculation, rising 6p to 147p.

David Nixon, the Leeds hosiery and underwear group was unchanged at 123p after announcing a change of brokers, Grieson Grant resigning to be replaced by Earnshaw, Haes.

Takeover speculation has gathered around United Scientific Holdings since Mr Peter Levene, chairman, moved to the Ministry of Defence. Jacobson, Townley and Co., joint stockbrokers to International Signal and Control Group, has helped fuel the talk by aggressively buying USI shares. But Jacobson Townley has been picking up stock for investment clients. Mr Ronnie Jacobson, a partner said: "We think the shares are a recovery stock. Our holding is not significant." USI shares were unchanged at 248p.

But Dixon's chairman, Mr Harry Turpin, is puzzled. He says Grieson Grant wrote saying Dixon's was too small for it to handle any longer.

He says there has been no row with Grieson, and he has found its work satisfactory. "I thought it a bit unusual but perhaps that's the way they do things in the City. Anyway, I think we've found good brokers in Earnshaw, Haes."

Dixon has just reported a big jump in half-time profits and a hike in the dividend. Earnshaw, Haes will also be taking on the USM-quoted York House property and contracting group, also chaired by Mr Turpin.

One of the first jobs of the new brokers is likely to be a check on Dixon's share register. A hefty stake is held by the Liechtenstein-registered Establishment Plannib, which has attracted the attention of the Takeover Panel.

No one was available at Grieson Grant to comment on reasons for resigning.

Bespak continued to suffer from its profits warning. Wednesday's 53p drop was followed by a 32p decline, leaving the shares looking decidedly friendless at 248p.

Bestwood, which features a 24.6 per cent shareholding in the Forsyok oil services group as its prime asset, jumped 42p to 213p. F. G. Gales, the garage group, surged 31p to 91p on the disclosure of a takeover approach.

Ryan's Hotels jumped 17p to 222p on its sharp profit improvement and Microverite, out of favour for so long, came back with a 12p jump to 93p.

On the stores pitches, buying action stayed strong, with Burton Group still proving a favourite. Investors are looking forward to next week's meeting, at which they expect to hear an optimistic report from Mr Ralph Halpern, the chairman.

Yesterday, the price jumped 21p to 451p, having touched 452p at one stage. We also responding to City enthusiasm, the share price striding past the 600p level in fine style. The shares gained 22p to 615p.

Empire Stores rose 8p to 112p, sharing in market hopes for a growth in consumer spending among lower income groups this year. Thoughts of tax cuts are behind the optimism; if the Chancellor sticks to the pattern of cuts of recent years, personal allowances will rise and benefit lower income groups most.

TEMPUS

Telecom rings up 27% rise in interim profits

After the glossy razzmatazz of its flotation last year, British Telecom returned to the more mundane realms of the real world yesterday to announce its first set of interim results as a listed company. Yet, even without the mass marketing tinsel, nobody was disappointed.

Pretax profits of £684 million were in line with expectations and, as anticipated, there was very little in the way of surprise. The £223 million reported increase in pretax profits was boosted by three special factors.

After allowing for depreciation benefits of £52 million, a reduction in pension costs of £20 million and a fall in the interest bill of £27 million, the comparable increase becomes £123 million. It is still an impressive 27 per cent improvement and the benefits of the three factors are recurring.

The price continues to defy gravity and rose another 7p to 132p yesterday. There still seems to be no shortage of buyers at this price and the flow of sellers has been stemmed. With many institutional shareholders still underweight, the price is set to move up.

This confidence in Telecom is supported by the company's undoubted ability to make a lot of money. The important trends of call rates are all moving in the right direction and Telecom will have the flexibility to price its services very attractively.

Telecom's competitors will not find it easy to take on the giant and as the company begins to build its cash resources, the opportunities will become available to spread its interests much more widely.

One prime target area for acquisitions will be the US. The monopoly implications would make acquisitions in this country very difficult and investment overseas would also offer another incentive to Telecom: the more money it invests overseas the more difficult the group will become to nationalize. An acquisition programme in the wider electronics sector will also reduce the group's reliance on the utility element of its interests.

Telephone calls will always be an important part of the group's business but a time can be envisaged where its proportion will be reduced substantially. Telecom could move into the realm of being a genuine growth stock.

On the negative side, the information which Telecom offered in its interim statement was very sparse and must be improved if users and investors are to appreciate the real performance of the company. Some segmental analysis is required and a detailed breakdown of call rates would also be useful. It is still early days but Telecom must remember that it is now a listed company and its reporting should reflect this.

concentrate on its core business.

There is still much work to be done on the balance sheet. Borrowings should show a reduction of around £5 million at the year-end to the £70 million mark but the gearing is still far too high. Full year pretax profits of £15 million are in sight and the shares continue to offer a high 9 per cent yield. Philips still have a 25 per cent stake in the company. There is little immediate hope of capital growth, unless the long-standing speculation about a bid is vindicated.

Electronic Rentals

Television analysts were pre-occupied with disappointing figures from Thorn EMI yesterday but not preoccupied enough to allow the interim results from Electronic Rentals to slide by without notice. Latest pretax profits of £7.5 million, up from £4.4 million, were at the bottom end of expectations and not sufficient to prevent a 2p dip in the share price to 49p.

The figures were flattered by the depreciation fall-out from British Relay Wireless, which boosted profits by close on £5 million. The underlying performance is therefore less impressive and with the television rental market still contracting, there is sufficient cause for concern about ER's prospects.

The company's solution is to tailor the services it provides to consumer demand, a simple enough prescription. Trials which were carried out in around 30 outlets to sell brown goods have proved successful and ER will now expand its retail operations, while still offering rental. Extensive servicing facilities already available will be used in support.

ER's video cassette recorders actually increased market share while its TV share remained static. It does not have the problem of producing machines which is one of Thorn EMI's problems.

The rental marketplace remains highly competitive and ER will be thankful that it has tidied up its other operations. Having withdrawn from cable television, it will

concentrate on its core business.

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Valin Pollen

The boom in financial public relations shows no sign of abating and Valin Pollen, as one of the few quoted beneficiaries, has seen its share price rocket from a 160p placing price a year ago to recent highs of 365p.

Pretax profits for the year ending September 30, 1984, were up to best expectations at £603,000, 119 per cent higher and exceeding the forecast of £425,000.

New business and new staff are being added at a cracking pace. The stockbrokers Buckmaster & Moore and Montagu Loeb Stanley signed on, as did the accountants Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

Other new accounts include Unigate, Argyll Group, and on the last day of the year, Whitbread. This year Valin Pollen has won the Prudential's portable pensions business and Fidelity, the City solicitors. Staff in the entire group now number nearly 150 against 80 a year ago.

Given the increasing use being made of PR by an ever widening range of companies, the surge in turnover and profits looks set to continue. The acquisition of McAvoy Wreford & Associates will swell revenue this year, with forecast for income of £470,000 in the year to April 30, 1985, but a move to new offices will be costly.

Profits could reach £850,000 bringing the prospective p/e ratio down to a more sane level of 32, assuming 45 per cent tax. The historic p/e is still a heady 47, on shares down 2p at 356p, and the yield a meagre 0.8 per cent on a 2p total dividend.

Less drilling off West Africa

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Interest in drilling for oil and gas offshore West Africa is declining because of political and economic uncertainties in the area, according to a survey by the energy consultants, Gaffney Cline and Associates.

In the survey of drilling activity in the area the consultants report that the rapid growth experienced in the early 1980s has declined since the start of 1983.

Gaffney Cline suggests that from a technical point of view the area still offers attractive prospects.

Mr Tom Cox, the company's managing director for European, Middle Eastern and African operations, said: "The factors influencing activity offshore West Africa are many and varied."

In Nigeria for instance, there is little incentive for new development when the rate of production allowed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is so much less than the possible production.

However, some countries seem keen to develop indigenous sources of energy but appear unable to put together sufficiently attractive terms to compete with those available in other parts of the world, such as Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Shop deal

Gateway Foodmarkets, a subsidiary of the Dee Corporation, is to take the 33,000 sq ft supermarket being built in phase two of The Maltings Shopping Centre in St Albans, Hertfordshire, by the Bredro Group, the Dutch property company, the first phase of the scheme was completed last year.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Adam & Company	9 1/2 %
Berleys	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Citibank Savings	10 1/2 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
Continental Trust	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %
Citibank NA	9 1/2 %

* Mortgage Base Rate.
7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6 %; £10,000 up to £50,000, 7 1/2 %; £50,000 and over, 8 %.

INDUSTRY TODAY

Britain's exporters could do better despite sales record to US

By David Smith

The pound's slide boosts companies' order books but other countries have overtaken them.

Britain's exporters, by all accounts, are enjoying a considerable boom. Exports hit a record level of £6,450 million in November with volume, even excluding North Sea oil, up 14.3 per cent on a year earlier.

Exporters are reaping the benefits of the pound's slide. The Confederation of British Industry, in its latest quarterly survey, reported that export books stood at their best level for six years.

Companies which discovered a few years ago that they could not export and make a profit at the same time are now renewing their assault on overseas markets. The list of British exports to the United States does not only include Wedgwood china, Burberry and Jaguar cars, but, increasingly, bread-and-butter products like basic chemicals and motor components.

Exports to the United States topped £1 billion in November, and British exporters to the North American market split between those who have taken advantage of the halving of the pound's value against the dollar over the past four years in lower prices, and those who have kept their dollar prices unchanged and accepted a larger profit margin.

ICI, Britain's biggest exporter, has cut its dollar prices, going mainly for volume rather than wider margins.

ICI's total exports will have comfortably topped £2 billion last year, with exports to North America comfortably above £200 million, compared with £177 million in 1983. ICI sells pharmaceuticals, pesticides, crop protection chemicals and specialized chemicals in the United States.

Although the pound's fall against the dollar has permitted some recovery in margins, most of the benefits to ICI have been in a greater volume of exports. Sterling's fall from \$1.43 to \$1.15 during 1984 was far greater than ICI had allowed for in its own business plan.

Other companies have been able to compete more effectively on price because of the pound's lower level. AE, the motor component manufacturer, won a large order for

piston rings in the United States simply because it was able to price below the local manufacturers.

British orders, where a few years ago, companies would have been unable to compete on price include a £1 million order for a naval weapons systems simulator won by Feranti Communications; Pye Telecommunications gained a contract, worth £1 million annually, to supply pocket phones to the United States, while a company called Craven House Marketing is supplying America's keep-fit industry with 22,000 rowing machines, worth £500,000.

For many other, household-name companies, the strength of the American economy has been sufficient to provide them with an export boom, which they can enjoy without cutting prices, at far higher profit margins.

Jaguar is the most frequently quoted example. The company sold 18,044 cars in the United States last year, a 14.1 per cent up on 1983. Sales in December alone hit a new record of 2,139 cars.

Jaguar has not cut its dollar prices, the volume it can supply to the US market being constrained by production capacity at its Coventry factory. Instead, it has taken more profits from exporting to the US.

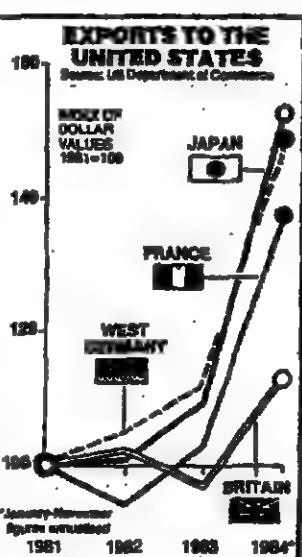
Wedgwood is in a similar position, selling 40 per cent of its output in America. However, it has not achieved this by reducing prices.

According to the Wedgwood chairman, Sir Arthur Bryan: "The strong dollar is an asset to the United States, but we must remember that other nations' china makers are benefiting too."

"The pound is still overvalued against the mark and yen. We have not cut prices in the United States."

Triptree jam, which is also selling at record levels in the United States, attributes its success to the exchange rate and the appointment of a new importer there. It has not reduced its prices in response to the pound's fall, but held them.

Landable though the success of British exporters is, in the United States and elsewhere, it clearly could be a lot better. Although final figures will not be available for about three weeks, British exports to the United States look likely to have risen by about 17 per cent, in dollar terms, in 1984.



BRITAIN'S EXPORTS (£ million)	
	Total
1980	5,310
1981	5,310
1982	5,310
1983	5,310
1984	5,310
Oct	5,310
Nov	5,310
Dec	5,310

This compares with about 40 per cent for Japanese exports, 35 per cent for those from Germany, and 34 per cent for French exports.

Why has Britain, despite a bigger currency fall against the dollar than competitor countries, fared less well in the American market?

The first reason is that, many

exporters withdrew from the United States market in 1980 and 1981, when the pound rose to more than \$2.40. Obtaining local representation and dealerships cannot be done overnight and it is only now that these companies have decided to stick a toe in the water again.

Austin-Rover, traditionally a leading exporter, withdrew in 1981, and only now is planning a re-entry.

Secondly, despite sterling's four-year fall against the dollar, the attention of new exporters has only recently turned to America.

The British Overseas Trade Board launched a United States promotion last May, focusing of nine priority areas for British exports to the United States - construction equipment and services, computer software, contract furnishing, food processing equipment, women's clothing and accessories, non-weapon defence supplies, health equipment and knitwear.

Of these, the BOTB reports, knitwear, healthcare equipment and computer software are now doing well.

A third reason is the reluctance, discussed above, of many exporters to reduce their prices in response to the pound's fall. Some see the pound's weakness as a temporary phenomenon and do not like to change prices too frequently.

Others see the present period as a chance to recoup losses on exporting in earlier years. Related to this, for consumer products, some exporters feel that American retailers would simply take a bigger profit margin if export prices were reduced. Most are not in a powerful enough market position to do much about this.

Finally, it may be that while the initial fall in the pound's value was of benefit to exporters, it has now gone too far to be of any more use.

Britain's products may have become cheaper, but quality and price, in the mind of the purchaser, often go hand in hand.

Thorn EMI Electronics: Mr J. A. S. Bright has been made engineering director. Equitable Life Assurance Society: Mr R. H. Ransom has become a director.

Woolwich Equitable Building Society: Mr Peter Robinson has been appointed to the Woolwich's board for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

National Advanced Systems: Mr Mike Brewster has been

Selincourt to close offshoot

By Cliff Feltham

Selincourt, the clothing group headed by the former BTR chief, Sir David Nicholson, is closing its loss-making Tricosa fashion offshoot in France.

Selincourt has been attempting for months to engineer a rescue package with French banks and the authorities but after failing to reach agreement has decided to pull out of the business, likely to involve a total cost of £3.5 million.

Mr Roger Barklett, finance director, said: "It looks as if the business will have to be closed."

Tricosa employs about 450 in four locations.

Tricosa, which supplies up-market fashionwear, has been making losses for the past couple of years and against a background of poor trading conditions Selincourt saw little future without considerable restructuring, involving a reduction in capacity and slimming down in costs.

Mr Barklett said: "When we heard after 10 months of discussion that the banks and authorities could not accept our proposals we were faced with the choice of continuing to pump money in or turning the tap off."

Selincourt has now, it says, "initiated the appropriate legal procedures" leading to its withdrawal from Tricosa.

British TELECOM

INTERIM RESULTS

The unaudited results for the three months and six months ended 30 September 1984 are as follows	Second quarter 3 months ended 30 Sept		Cumulative 6 months ended 30 Sept	
	1984 £m	1983 £m	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover	1867	1691	3679	3326
Operating costs	1399	1313	2758	2593
Operating profit	468	378	921	733
Net interest payable	103	133	237	271
Profit before taxation	365	245	684	462
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	131	—	246	—
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	234	245	438	462
Preference dividend	10	—	10	—
Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders	224	—	428	—
Earnings per ordinary share	3.7p	—	7.1p	—

Motoring by Clifford Webb

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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Copenhagen £122	Geneva from £86	New York £261
Frankfurt £229	Salzburg from £140	San Francisco £242
Madrid £285	Lyon from £120	Chicago £201
Nice £130	Inclusive flight and car	South Africa £432
Paris £152	Schedule flights all major	Round the World £810
Zurich £192	U.K. airports	and Australia £699

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also on page 22

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**Summaries by Peter Dear
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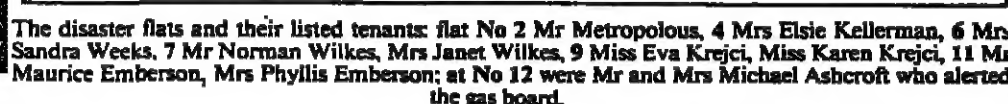
Entertainments

[illegible]

Britain rejected US sites for A-tests, says chief scientist

"I would have taken it because I wanted to get back to Anglo-American collaboration", Lord Penney told the court after flights over the area it had been concluded that there were no Aborigines present. The hearings continue today.

Those who work with him say that his strength grows visibly each day, and that his competitive political spirit is if anything greater than before.



Rome (AP) - Two of the one-day old sextuplets born here to a woman on fertility drugs were transferred to intensive care wards after they developed breathing difficulties. The four other boys were reported in satisfactory condition.

[illegible]